

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012, as allegedly predicted by a Mayan calendar?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION



The gunman in the Connecticut shooting carried an arsenal of deadly bullets. **» PAGE 15**

ASIA



The road ahead will not be easy in reviving Japan's sputtering economy. **» PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" led the box office with a haul of \$84.8 million. **» PAGE 20**

5 top Math Court regionals for middle school. **PAGE 2**
Businesswoman injured in robbery. **PAGE 4**

'Focus is on double murder'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration said yesterday it is concentrating its resources "on the more current and pressing matter" of the double homicide in San Vicente at this time, while it has yet to know the cost and legal procedures involved in extraditing former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

» Joe DLG: Letter to Limtiaco wouldn't jeopardize investigation

Incoming House Speaker Joe DeLeon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said he doesn't see any reason how "writing a letter" to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco to initiate Buckingham's extradition could "jeopardize" a double murder investigation.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, meanwhile, has yet to make a recommendation to the governor on the issue of extradition as of yesterday.

Yesterday marked the 12th day since

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) informed San Nicolas on Dec. 5 that the U.S. Department of Justice is willing to pursue Buckingham but a request from San Nicolas to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco "would be necessary to initiate Mr. Buckingham's capture."

San Nicolas, however, assured lawmakers that "no criminal defendant should be allowed to evade justice, no one."

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) pointed out yesterday that while

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Mahmood's arrest sought

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and her co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit against a sole-source, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement asked the Superior Court yesterday to issue a bench warrant against Saipan Development LLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood for failing to appear for deposition.

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» SDLLC adviser fails to appear at deposition

AFTER 'NO CONFIDENCE' VOTE:

Hart seeks meeting with faculty

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After getting a no-confidence vote from her teaching staff, Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ed.D., is reaching out to the Faculty Senate leadership to remedy the situation.

In a college statement yesterday, it said that Hart was notified

See HART on Page 4

WINNING PERFORMANCE

Members of the Koblerville Elementary School choir sing their hearts out during the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15. The group won the competition in their category for the fourth consecutive year.

See story on Page 13



December
PREPAID SPECIALS

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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

*Terms and conditions apply

Local

5 top Math Court regionals for middle school

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Five students were big winners in this year's Math Court competition for middle school held Saturday at the Saipan Community School.

Beibei Chen of Agape Christian School walked off with the gold medal, while the silver medal went to Won Jun Kim of Marianas Baptist Academy. Emerging third, fourth, and fifth placers were MBA's John Robert Tam, Young Jessica Cho, and

Samual Park.

The Math Court competition is a series of meets that occur throughout the school year. At each meet, several tests are offered to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level. The competition has three divisions: K-5, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th.

In Saturday's regional competition for middle schools, 32 students advanced to this round as finalists from the pre-

regional meets held at Garapan Elementary School.

For the competition's team winners, the gold medal went to the team of Agape Christian School-Marianas Baptist Academy, composed of Beibei Chen, Mengge Lai, John Robert Tam, and Samuel Park.

The silver medal went to Hopwood Junior High School's Team Hilitai II composed of Sophia Kim, Julie Da Hyeon Kwon, Ma. Chrizelle Omotoy, and Ivan Seo.

According to Math Court coordinator for middle school

Dora B. Miura, the individual medalists have the opportunity to join the High School Regional competition on Jan. 12, 2013, at Saipan Southern High School for a chance to be a member of Team CNMI. These students, should they choose to compete, are automatically alternates for Team CNMI in the national event.

The CNMI Math Court competition began in 2005. In 2010, the CNMI sent its first state team to the American Regions Mathematics League Competition.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.



Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 22



In celebration of the Japanese New Year and as part of the ongoing Christmas in the Marianas celebration, the Mochitsuki Festival will be held on Dec. 22, 2012, at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, Saipan.

In traditional Japanese culture, families and communities gather in December to make *mochi*—a dough-like substance made of glutinous rice—in preparation for New Year's Day. The process involves soaking the rice overnight, steaming it, and then pounding the rice with a wooden mallet called a *kine* in an *usu*, a mortar made from a wooden stump or stone.

Festival goers will have the opportunity to pound *mochi* at Saturday's festival, as well as enjoy and partake in other cultural activities. Dance performances will be made by Okinawa Eisa from Japan and the Saipan Awaodori team, and a karate exhibition will be held. Entertainment will run from 6pm to 9pm, including Koblerville Elementary, Mt Carmel School, and Kagman High. Japanese and other international cuisine will be on sale. Games, face painting, and other activities will also be offered.

The Mochituski Festival is part of the Christmas in the Marianas celebration being held every Saturday in December by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Friends of Paseo de Marianas, and other tourism partners.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Congratulations
to our
Grand Prize Winners!

Happy Holidays CNMI!
Thank you for
a wonderful 40 years!

40th YEAR
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PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
1 st Prize	8339	Lucy Palacios
2 nd Prize	5891	Steve Qian
3 rd Prize	3767	Ernesto Dela Paz
4 th Prize	0425	Regina Kluge
5 th Prize	13220	
6 th Prize	16333	Aileen Benavidez
7 th Prize	6746	Bobbie Cabrera
8 th Prize	7666	Geoffrey Melchor
9 th Prize	16033	R. Villanueva
10 th Prize	9373	Clarissa Adlawan

To redeem your prizes bring your ticket to the Kanoa Resort and see Ms. Cory Quing.

Kanoa Resort

McDonald's donates Happy Meal toys for Karidat's Toys for Tots

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Children served by Karidat Social Services will be receiving McDonald's toys this holiday following yesterday's donation from the local franchise of the world's largest hamburger chain.

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, restaurant supervisor Emmanuel James Bautista, and marketing officer Ana Olaes presented 600 pieces of Happy Meal toys of different kinds to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero and administrative officer Judy Pangelinan at the store's Middle Road branch.

Ayuyu said the donation is a way of saying thank you and giving back to the island community that has supported the restaurant for many years.

"It's something that I hope the kids will enjoy receiving. We'd like to give back because we're all family here," she added.

Karidat's Guerrero said all donated toys, including those from McDonald's, will be distributed to the children of families in need on Saipan.

"I'm sure the kids will appreciate the toys. It's a novelty for them. It brings smiles to their faces," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Depending on the number of toys they receive, Guerrero said toys will also be allotted to children on Tinian and Rota. She plans to meet with lawmakers from both islands and discuss the issue of shipping and to make necessary arrangements.

Toy drive wrap up

Today is the last day for new or used-like-new toy to be received for this year's Toys for Tots program, sponsored by Marianas Health Services.

Maria Pangelinan, associate administrator for administrative services, said yesterday that the toy collection drive has yielded good results, with more donations expected throughout the day.

"It's a good humanitarian program for families having a hard time during the holiday season. So far, it's looking really good," she said.

Donors are requested to bring unwrapped and age-appropriate toys to be matched with Karidat's young clients whose parents will be responsible in wrapping the gifts in time for Christmas Day on Dec. 25.

Pangelinan said all toys donated to the Toys for Tots program will be turned over to Karidat in a ceremony on Wednesday.

To donate toys or for more information, visit Marianas Health Services located along Beach Road next to Morgen Building and San Jose Church or contact them at 233-4646 or info@marianashealth.com. You may also visit Karidat in Chalan Kanoa or call 234-5248 or 6981.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, left, presents 600 Happy Meal toys to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero during a brief ceremony at the store's Middle Road branch yesterday afternoon. Also in photo are McDonald's restaurant supervisor Emmanuel James Bautista, marketing officer Ana Olaes, and Karidat administrative officer Judy Pangelinan.



UNWRAP
the possibilities

December

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Samsung u365
\$39*

Samsung u450 Intensity
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BLU DeeJay2
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Nokia X2-01
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTA meeting tomorrow

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: The fourth PTA meeting for school year 2012-2013 is scheduled for Dec. 19, 2012, Wednesday, at 6pm in the Manta Café. Please join us as important information will be addressed along with upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you there. (PR)

Progress reports for Kagman schools

For all Kagman schools (Kagman High School, ChaCha Jr. High, and Kagman Elementary School), the North East Cluster Schools' Joint Progress Report is set for release on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012. All Kagman schools will have a half-day schedule; dismissal is at 12:45pm. For more information, call the KHS main office at 664-3840, COJHS at 664-4100, or KES at 664-3911. (PR)

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 23
November 21 • December 20

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New Store Hours • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza) Tuesday to Saturday • 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Businesswoman injured in robbery

A businesswoman was injured when an unidentified man assaulted her and her 16-year-old daughter during a robbery near Garapan Elementary School last week.

Minhong Ji, 45, of Jiangsu, China, sustained a facial bone fracture on the right cheek and bruises on her arms. A physician advised her to seek off-island treatment by an ENT doctor.

Ji's daughter was injured in the mouth. She has been studying on Saipan for three years now.

The suspect managed to run off with Ji's bag containing \$800 cash, a Sony digital camera, cell phone, her passport, car keys, wallet, driver's licenses for the CNMI, Guam, and China, ATM cards, and credit cards.

The robber was described as about 20 to 30 years old, a local, skinny, about 5'7" to 5'8" tall, and with curly short hair. He had no shirt on and was wearing only a pair of short pants at the time.

Ji, through James Han of QQ Car Rental who served as an interpreter, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she arrived on Saipan on Nov. 28, 2012, to visit her daughter and husband, who works in Guam. Ji was supposed to return to China on Dec. 20, 2012.

Ji said the robbery happened on Dec. 11 at 8:30pm in front of the Capitol Hotel near Capitol Bowling and Garapan Elementary School.

Ji said she and her daughter were heading back to Capitol Hotel after shopping in western Garapan and were about 20 meters away from the hotel when the suspect appeared from behind.

Without saying a word, the suspect punched Ji four times in the face, knocking her out. The suspect then punched her daughter in the mouth.

The robber grabbed Ji's bag and ran toward a red pickup truck that was parked outside the Garapan Elementary School. The suspect jumped into



Minhong Ji, 45, of Jiangsu, China, sustains a fracture on the right cheek and bruises on her arms after being robbed near Garapan Elementary School last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the bed of the truck, which then sped off toward western Garapan.

The truck was described as having a noisy muffler.

When Ji regained consciousness, she was already in the hospital.

"Before, I love Saipan. Now, this place becomes horrible. Me and my family are very scared now here," said Ji, who wants to return to China but is having a hard time because her passport was among the items stolen. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

HART

From Page 1

of the no-confidence vote by Senate Faculty president Amanda Angel Diaz Friday afternoon but that no further details were provided in the e-mail communication.

"The president [Dr. Hart] spoke about receiving notification late Friday afternoon from the Faculty Senate president that a vote had been issued. No details other than the outcome of the vote were provided in the emailed letter," the NMC statement stated.

Hart acknowledged, however, that with the faculty vote, there seems to be a problem.

"The vote by the faculty tells me there is a problem or a number of problems that have come, or should have come, to my attention," Hart stated, adding that she is still waiting to receive a formal communication from the Faculty Senate regarding substantive issues.

Nineteen of the 23 full-time faculty members gave a vote of no confidence in Hart's leadership during their assembly Friday last week in Building J1. Two faculty members supported Hart while the two others abstained from voting.

Hart expressed disappointment upon seeing the article on *Saipan*

Tribune yesterday about the Faculty Senate's action, saying that NMC continues to operate in a professional, ethical manner.

"The president was saddened to see the comments in Monday's *Saipan Tribune*. The college wants to clarify points made in the press. NMC has a number of policies and procedures in place that serves as a check and balance system. We continue to operate in a manner that is professional, ethical, and in line with higher education practices," stated the college.

Hart urged the college to come together during this time, to work together and to positively address each and every issue. "This is a stressful time, but working together for the betterment of the college and our students is key," she added.

Hart said she issued a letter to all college employees yesterday.

In yesterday's statement to the media, the college indicated that "the president is tasked to address a myriad of institutional challenges that can be both internal and external."

"And often with a new president, changes and accountability occur (and with these changes, some of those affected may feel the need to challenge the president's authority). Yet, it is the president's responsibility to listen to all stakeholders and to do so in an environment that provides a sense of fairness

and equality," added the statement.

NMC has two types of employees: faculty and staff. According to the statement, NMC has 160 full-time employees and over 50 part-time employees. In addition, the college serves approximately 1,300 full-time students and over 20,000 community members.

"The president has an open-door philosophy and has welcomed and continues to welcome everyone to meet with her. Furthermore, Hart reminded the college community that a process is in place to take matters forward for review, consideration, or complaint," it added.

Sources of *Saipan Tribune* who asked not to be named earlier disclosed that the faculty lost confidence in Hart's leadership due to alleged financial mismanagement, unethical conduct, and jeopardizing accreditation.

Among the issues that concerned faculty, sources said, include overspending of college funds for the president's off-island travel that amounts to more than \$200,000 in fiscal year 2011; a no-bid procurement of used tablet computers from Florida; amended recruitment procedures that allegedly favor new off-island hires; and allegations of favoritism, preferential treatment, and unfair compensation practices.

Hart is also being criticized for the sole-source contract for her husband for the new college foundation.

at this time" but he said he agreed with the delegate that extraditing Buckingham to the CNMI "would help restore trust and confidence" in the Office of the Attorney General.

Press secretary Angel Demapan echoed yesterday Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' statement on Friday that the extradition "is more of a legal policy issue and we have not come to that point yet."

He said "at this point in time, the administration doesn't know what the cost would be as well as the legal procedures of such an undertaking."

"At this time, the administration is concentrating its resources on the more current and pressing matter of the tragic double homicide case that has shaken our community," Demapan added.

Demapan was referring to the discovery of the bodies of a husband and wife in a San Vicente home on Dec. 8, two days after they were believed to have been murdered when they were not able to pick up their 6-year-old son in school that Thursday, Dec. 6.

"This case is an extreme criminal case that warrants all our investigative and legal resources as authorities try to get to the bottom of such a gruesome

crime that has no place in our community, and more importantly, has left a young innocent child without his parents," the press secretary added.

Deleon Guerrero said writing a letter to Limtiaco to initiate the extradition proceeding won't jeopardize the double homicide investigation.

"It's a matter of making a decision," he said in a phone interview.

Buckingham is facing criminal charges in connection with his alleged hosting of a political campaign in 2010 for the governor's delegate candidate, and approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract. The complaint was later amended to include obstruction of justice in August 2012 when he allegedly used police and ports police officers to shield him from being served a penal summons.

He left the CNMI a day after signing a no-bid, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, now under preliminary injunction. That agreement was among the issues in a defeated resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. The impeachment resolution will be re-introduced in January.

House JGO mulls inviting Fitial to talk about PPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee is considering inviting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "to present his position" on the sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement but a decision whether that will happen could be made today.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the JGO panel, called for a meeting this morning on the committee's long-standing review of the power deal signed by the governor and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham with Saipan Development LLC.

Today's meeting is focused on House Resolution 17-110, which objects to the power purchase agreement and requests then acting governor Eloy S. Inos to "cancel" that PPA.

Demapan's committee members have been reviewing testimony provided to the Special Impeachment Committee related to the PPA.

The JGO Committee is also considering holding a public hearing to provide representatives of SDLLC "the opportunity to present their views."

The signing of the no-bid PPA is one of the issues in a defeated resolution to impeach the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. The incoming House major-

ity will re-introduce the impeachment resolution in January.

But the composition of the current JGO Committee may present challenges. Three of the six members voted against the impeachment resolution in October: vice speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Torres had already pulled out his Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee from the joint investigation with the JGO panel on the 25-year power purchase agreement to build a 50MW diesel power plant.

Three other JGO panel members voted in favor of the impeachment resolution: Demapan, Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan). Yumul and Sablan were co-authors of the resolution.

The PPA is under preliminary injunction. Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), Yumul and the CNMI Senate filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against pursuing the PPA. Some lawmakers expressed concern that inviting Fitial and SDLLC may jeopardize not only the case but also the impeachment process. They said Fitial will have a chance to defend his position on the PPA once the Senate conducts a trial when the House impeaches him next year.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 21st birthday to you my Samoan sister, Joana! I hope you have a great one, girl! I love and miss you! Take care and have a blast! Greetings come from Gg, Mom and Dad Penny and Joe Norita, families, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 18th birthday to Peter Lieto, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 18! May the Lord fill your life with many, many blessings! Love, Dad, Mom, Frankie, Anna, Marie, and Denang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 5th birthday to our sweet girl, Sophia Joshabelle Tenorio Muña, who is celebrating her special day today! Enjoy your birthday and we love you always. Shoutout coming from Mom, Dad, your sister, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAHMOOD

From Page 1

Maratita's lawyer, Ramon K. Quichocho, said the court should issue the bench warrant for Mahmood's arrest for failing to obey the subpoena that commanded him to testify at the deposition.

The deposition was set for yesterday, Dec. 17, at 9am in Quichocho's law offices at Karissa Center in Gualo Rai.

Deposition refers to a process of taking the testimony of a witness outside of court.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach Mahmood's counsel, William M. Fitzgerald, for comment but he had yet to reply as of press time.

Quichocho also asked the court to issue an order requiring Mahmood to explain why he should not be cited for contempt for failing to comply with the subpoena.

Quichocho wants the court to issue an order that would force the SDLLC adviser to appear for a deposition.

He said that Mahmood and Jason Osborne, consultant for Allegiance Capital Corp., were on Saipan and met with certain senators, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and others to pursue the \$190.8-million, no-bid power purchase agreement and related agreements.

As a result, Quichocho said his cli-

ents sought to depose Mahmood and served him a subpoena on Dec. 4 to testify at a deposition.

He said Mahmood filed a motion to quash the subpoena on the basis that he did not receive the witness fee. The lawyer noted that under the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 45, no witness fee was given because the plaintiffs are elected officers and/or an entity of the Commonwealth.

Quichocho said that Mahmood did not appear for his deposition yesterday at 9am.

"Plaintiffs and the good people of the CNMI request that a bench warrant be issued for Kenneth Mahmood for his flagrant disregard of the subpoena that was properly served on him," Quichocho added.

SDLLC counsel William Fitzgerald filed last week a motion to prevent Mahmood and Osborne from attending the deposition, which according to them, was filed prematurely.

Fitzgerald said the court should issue a protective order because the plaintiffs filed deposition notices in contravention of civil procedures.

The Senate, Maratita and Rep. Ray Anthony Yumul (IR-Saipan) are suing Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and SDLLC in a bid to invalidate the 25-year power purchase agreement.

FOCUS

From Page 1

San Nicolas agreed with lawmakers' position, he "didn't offer a solution to the problem."

"I have high regard for the current AG. But I'm very concerned he has not expressed any explanation to address and take care of the problem. He never said he'll write to Limtiaco or search for any money for this," Reyes said.

Private citizens and elected officials earlier said they would donate money or raise funds to cover the extradition costs, although Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said there's no need to do so because while cost is a factor, it is not a deciding factor.

Lawmakers pointed out that Buckingham "continues to be a fugitive from justice," after the CNMI Supreme Court denied the former AG's petition to overturn the trial court's order declaring him so.

Despite his concerns, Reyes reiterated that he hopes San Nicolas "will do the right thing."

The AG had said he is "not at liberty to state with specificity what I will do

DEQ warns vs foreign pesticides

The Division of Environmental Quality is reminding the public that the importation and selling of foreign or misbranded pesticides and pesticide devices is illegal. Products that may be imported or sold in the CNMI are legal products that are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are properly labeled in the English language.

All pesticides must be labeled with the name of the pesticide in bold letters, restricted use designation, description of which pests are controlled, chemical name of pesticide, active ingredients and percentages, inert ingredients, EPA registration number, patent numbers, directions for proper use and appropriate signal words such

as caution, warning or danger poison. Misbranded pesticides also refer to products that bear any statement, design, or graphic representation that is false or misleading.

The legal definition of a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Many household products are pesticides and can include kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers. Products that kill mold and mildew are also considered pesticides.

The importation, sale, or distribution of illegal pesticides in the CNMI places the community, especially children, at risk of being poisoned. The DEQ Pesticide Management Branch is

charged with the responsibility to regulate the importation, sale, and distribution of pesticides, legal or illegal, to ensure public health and a clean and healthy environment. DEQ staff regularly inspects business establishments for any misbranded products. Should misbranded items be found, all misbranded pesticides will be confiscated and penalties may be assessed.

The CNMI Pesticide Regulations are available to any interested party. Call or visit the DEQ Pesticide Management Branch at 664-8522, located along Chalan Pale Arnold at the Gualo Rai Center or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.gov.mp. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (DEQ)

Rotary donates \$1K to Palau relief efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be donating \$1,000 to help the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Palau following the devastation caused by super typhoon Bopha.

The super typhoon hit Palau on its way to the Philippines, bringing strong winds and heavy flooding to the Pacific

island nation where hundreds of families lost their homes.



Shilling

Rotary president Pete Shilling said during Tuesday's meeting that he and other club officers convened to discuss the donation and bring it up to their membership.

Some 20 Rotarians present at the meeting unanimously voted to approve the donation.

"Thank you very much for your support," Shilling told his

fellow Rotarians.

He said the Rotary Club of Saipan will work sending the donation through wire transfer to the Rotary Club of Palau.

In other news, the Rotary Club of Saipan will hold its annual Christmas party tonight at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

The event, which will have the theme "Sparkle of Peace," will feature a full program that will include the election of officers and directors and toy donations to the CNMI Salvation Army.

A season to celebrate

Send or receive money through Western Union and win prizes

A reason to rejoice

Send or receive money through Western Union and have the chance to win in the 'Send/Receive & Win Christmas Promo' starting October 22, 2012.

Ten weekly draws will be held from October 30, 2012 to January 2, 2013. Each week, Western Union will be giving away:

- thirty (30) \$5 Docomo Pacific prepaid phone cards;
- four (4) \$25-worth of Herman's Modern Bakery coupons;
- one (1) \$50-worth MITA Travel Certificate;
- one (1) \$100-worth MITA Travel Certificate;
- ten (10) Hollywood Theater movie passes;
- one (1) \$100 cash.

Winners can claim their prizes at: MITA, Garapan, Saipan; Tinian Fuel Services, San Jose, Tinian; and Rota Merchandising Corporation, Songsong, Rota. For more information about this promo, please visit the nearest Western Union outlet.

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Plus, get Lucky 7 Double Points with Shell V-Power gas purchase.

Offer good while supplies last. See store for rules.

Guam magazine names Executive of the Year nominees

TAMUNING, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* announced Monday the names of the nominees for 2012 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year. They are Preston J. Antonini, general manager of the DFS Tumon Bay Galleria; Jose C. Ayuyu, president and owner of JCA Inc. which does business as McDonald's of Saipan, president and owner of RJ Corp., president of Paradise Realty Inc., and proprietor of Dandan Postal Services; Paul K. Baron, Pacific Business Group manager of GHD Inc.; Agustin Davalos, Citi country officer/country business manager for Citibank N.A.-

Guam; Jerrold C. "Jere" Johnson, president of Hawaiian Rock Products; Sandra H. McKeever, president of Asia Pacific Financial Management Group; Christopher S. Murphy, principal broker of The Real Estate Professionals; and Rizk C. Saad, president of American Watertek and owner of NuForm Fitness.

The annual Executive of the Year award is presented in order to recognize executives who have made outstanding contributions to the local business community and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

The name of the winner has traditionally been held secret by

the magazine until the unveiling of the January-February issue—featuring a commissioned portrait of the winner on the cover—on the night of the gala.

Guam Business Magazine will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year award on Jan. 12, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Proceeds from the gala event will benefit the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Tickets, at \$150 per person, for the Jan. 12 award gala may be purchased from Chita Blaise, executive director of the American Red Cross, by calling

472-6217 or by emailing chita.blaise@guamredcross.org.

Past recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Paul M.

Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of

Companies (2005); Laura Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings (2009); and Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010). **(PR)**

Woman in immigration fraud wants probation

The woman found guilty of immigration fraud wants the federal court to sentence her with probation.

In an appeal filed Thursday, Li Wen Tang's lawyer, Colin M. Thompson, argued that Tang's personal history and the facts and circumstances of her conviction warrant a sentence of probation for his client.

Tang was found guilty of immigration fraud for lying in her application to register for permanent residence or adjust status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

Thompson said that given the offense for which Tang was charged, a sentence of probation would be more than sufficient

and not greater than necessary to effectuate the purposes of the sentencing.

The lawyer said that based on the sentencing guidelines, the base offense level for his client is eight. Since Tang has no criminal history, the imprisonment range is zero to six months and there are no special offense characteristics that merit increasing the offense level.

Tang submits that she has no prior criminal history, limited education, limited English speaking ability, consistent employment history, lack of guidance in youth, and family ties to Saipan that should be considered in the determination of her sentence.

The document stated that

Tang did not know English well enough to have fully understood the complexities of the immigration forms.

When Tang filed an application to register permanent resident or adjust status with USCIS, she stated that she has no children with her current husband.

When she filed a second application, she disclosed that she had two children with a previous boyfriend. In the sentencing memorandum filed last Dec. 13, Tang indicated that she understands now that she made a mistake and should have stated that she had two children when she was interviewed by federal agents. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001

ROUTE 31, CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-B FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031 (015)
RE-BID PACKAGE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, Phase II-B, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 4, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for **December 21, 2012 9:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Saipan. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-B. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 9, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each of the addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001". For bidder within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 14, 2013**, and must be received no later than **January 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 29, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 17, 2013**.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a Current License from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

The contractor submitting an unacceptable payment of performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Compliance with Local and Federal Laws and Other Certifications:

1. Bids shall include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor is in compliance of all applicable Local and Federal Laws and that all work performed in accordance with said bid shall be in compliance with Local and Federal Laws.
2. Sub-contractors must also comply with item 1 of this section.
3. Bids shall also include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor shall comply with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Buy American Provision (ARRA Title XVI, Section 1605) for all materials purchased utilizing ARRA funds.

Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred days (300) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Feds OK \$1.114M to buy 2 buses

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Transit Authority advisory board chair Thomas J. Camacho said that the federal government awarded and executed on Friday a \$1.114-million funding to be able to buy two 15- to 20-passenger buses that will provide Saipan with public flexible-route transportation system, hire personnel for COTA, and develop request for proposals for equipment and required management plans.

Camacho said with the funding, COTA would be able to solicit proposals for the development of a CNMI transportation master plan, transportation management plan, transportation financial management plan, human services coordination transportation plan, and emergency preparedness plan, among other things.

It will also allow the office to fund a feasibility study of Saipan's flexible route system,

\$40K for Tinian patients, programs pushed

Rep. Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian) pre-filed on Friday a local bill appropriating \$40,000 in poker license fees for Tinian patients and other programs. The speaker said he might call for a session this week, wherein Conner and other members could formally introduce their bills.

Under Conner's bill, \$27,000

including the feasibility of inter-island ferry led by the Department of Public Works' Highway Program.

Camacho, the governor's special assistant for public transportation, told reporters that the U.S. Federal Transit Authority approved the urbanized formula funding of \$1,114,853 on Friday and will soon be ready for drawdown.

"This will [help] initiate the administrative functions of COTA," he said, adding that the mini-buses alone could cost some \$70,000 each, depending on the bids.

The "expanded" transportation service using mini-buses on Saipan is in addition to the para-transit system known as the Saipan Call-A-Ride for people with disabilities and the elderly or *man'amko*. Camacho said the goal is for COTA to take over the operations of the Saipan Call-A-Ride.

In the meantime, however, COTA is asking the Saipan and

Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to temporarily fund the Saipan Call-A-Ride's operation until COTA gets to use the federal funds it received. The request for lawmakers' funding has been reduced to \$41,000, from the original request of \$44,000.

COTA hopes to bring down the cost of public transportation from \$6 per segment in the Saipan Call-A-Ride to \$1.50 to \$2 per segment. The program will be expanded to Rota and Tinian later.

The \$1.114-million funding is just the first round, Camacho said. COTA expects another \$1.079 million funding under the Veterans Transportation and Community Living II grant.

This would be used to acquire a transportation management software and hardware for vehicle dispatch, reservation, scheduling, billing, communications, route, vehicle location tracking, fare card systems, maintenance and reporting, among other things.

of \$40,000 will be for the monthly and retroactive subsistence allowance for patients on dialysis and those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis, and post-cerebral vascular accident.

An additional \$4,000 is proposed for Tinian Health Center

for patients needing emergency medical referral assistance.

House Local Bill 17-94 also proposes to give \$2,000 to the Tinian Senior Citizens Center to replace its air-conditioning system.

The remaining \$7,000 is proposed for the Tinian Mayor's Office to buy two riding mowers. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

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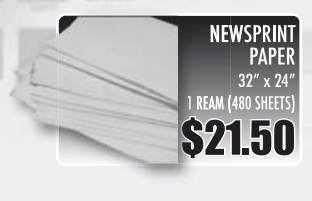
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Hyatt employees give gifts to kids at Guma Esperanza



Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees, together with Guma Esperanza staff, pose with the toys the Hyatt employees donated for this year's Toys for Tots program.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees at Hyatt Regency Saipan will make Christmas brighter for the children at Guma Esperanza with their toy donations for this year's Toys for Tots program.

A total of 82 wrapped gifts

for children ages 2 months to 17 years old were presented by the Hyatt staff to the CNMI's shelter for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in a brief ceremony at the hotel lobby yesterday afternoon.

Denise Montenegro, Hyatt training manager, said in an interview that they received from

Guma Esperanza a list of the gender and ages of children at the shelter. Employees started bringing toys right after Thanksgiving, Montenegro said, with some employees donating more than one toy to ensure that all children at the shelter will receive a gift this Christmas.

"It's a great initiative

for the employees to have a chance to do something meaningful," she said.

Montenegro even involves her own children in getting and wrapping the toys every year, making them realize that there is always someone from the community who is in need and instilling in them at an early age the spirit of giving.

"Christmas is not just the season of giving but also of hope. Everybody should have hope even though times are tough. When you have hope, anything is possible," added the mother of two.

Josephine Mesta, Hyatt human resources director, thanked the generosity of all hotel personnel who participated in the annual toy drive.

"This is what Hyatt symbolizes, taking care of the community that we are a part of and giving back to them the support they have extended to us," Mesta told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the community of Saipan should also be grateful to God that it is not experiencing the horrors and grief that Newtown, Connecticut is going through following a shooting incident that left 27 people dead.

"We hope that the children at Guma Esperanza will continue to receive love and care from our small island," added Mesta.

Shelter manager Lauri B. Ogomoro expressed her appreciation to Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has teamed up with them for many years in support of the toy drive.

"It's our pleasure to be able to work with them and their spirit of giving for the women and children at Guma Esperanza," Ogomoro said, adding that the toys will be distributed to the beneficiaries within the week in time for Christmas Day on Dec. 25.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 18, 2000

Survey: Saipan must ensure safety of tourists

The CNMI government must ensure that Saipan is a safe place for Japanese tourists, especially the women travelers, family group tours and senior citizens who visit the island, according to a survey conducted by a Tokyo-based marketing firm. K.K. Creative Assist was hired by the Marianas Visitors Authority to determine the CNMI's market share in Japan and evaluate the effectiveness of its Saipanda campaign. In-depth interviews were conducted among six travel agents, two airline companies and three publishers to find out their views on how to effectively sell the CNMI in Japan.

BOE eyes school for CNMI's brightest students

Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino has floated the idea of developing one of Saipan's public high schools into a campus exclusive to Northern Marianas' brightest and most exceptional students. Plans to set up what officials refer to as a "magnet school" was disclosed during the groundbreaking ceremony of one of the Public School System's major Capital Improvement Projects in Koblerville last Thursday. According to Mr. Pellegrino, with the anticipated opening of three additional public high schools on island within the next three years, BOE is mulling over designating one of the new campuses for CNMI's "cream of the crop."

Dec. 18, 2001

Inaugural plans now being finalized

The Legislature's inauguration committee expects to finalize all preparations for the inaugural ceremony before December 28—a full two weeks before the January 14 occasion. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, who chairs the inaugural committee for the Senate, said that preparations for the 13th Legislature's inaugural ceremony are now underway and he expect no problems arising in the run-up to January 14. "It's all going smoothly and all the programs that the committee is coming up should be finalized before the 28th of this month. All the invitations, the ceremony and so forth have been going smoothly," said Adriano.

Power-sharing reports surprised Kiyu

Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez expressed surprise over reports that the Senate leadership of the 13th Legislature is offering Saipan senators the chairmanship of two Senate committees but he added, though, that he would have no objections to such an arrangement. "Personally, I have no objection to that-joining the Senate leadership upon their invitation," Villagomez said. He hastened to add, however, that he has not received any formal invitation from the Senate leadership yet to join them as committee chairman. Villagomez's reaction stemmed from news reports quoting Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig as saying the Senate leadership will be offering the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare Programs to Villagomez and the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Local Affairs to Reyes.

Dec. 18, 2002

NMI importers surprised by new tobacco, alcohol taxes

Since midnight Saturday, major importers of tobacco and alcohol have began paying higher taxes for the entry of their goods, under the new tax rates outlined in Public Law 13-38, which Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law on December 13. The CNMI Customs Division implemented the new set of tax rates Saturday morning, a move that reportedly sowed confusion among major retailers, distributors, and importers due to a conflicting schedule of rate implementation released by lawmakers. According to customs director Joe Mafnas, the 90-day period required by the lawmakers is inconsistent with the directive that any bill that is signed into law takes effect upon the approval of the governor.

Babauta: No qualms about CUC-CDA agreement laws

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he favors the enactment of two bills relating to the settlement agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority. "I was in [Washington] D.C. when the deadline lapsed but if I were here, I'd probably have signed the bills into law to put an end to this dispute," Babauta said. Although lacking the signature of the Governor, the two bills that put into effect the settlement terms for the over \$103 million debt of the CUC to the development authority turned into laws last week due to the failure of the Governor's Office to act on them within the statutory period of 40 days.



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"Together We Can Build A Future"

PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff and management of OVR will hold its
ANNUAL WELLNESS & REHABILITATION DAY
on Friday, December 21, 2012
from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm.

As a result of this planned activity,
the offices will be closed.

Your understanding will be highly appreciated.

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*This publication was paid for with federal funds made possible
by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education,
Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).*

Blue Bay Petroleum donates \$10K to Palau typhoon relief

Blue Bay Petroleum, Inc. donated \$10,000 to support relief efforts for the victims of super typhoon Bopha, which hit Palau on the eve of Dec. 3.

The powerful super typhoon, packing winds of over 130mph, barreled through Palau and caused a country-wide blackout, while leaving a trail of damage and destruction that has left many families homeless or displaced, damages roads, while disrupting communication and broadcast capabilities.

Areas that were hardest hit were the eastern Babeldaob states of Ngaraard, Ngiwal, Melekeok, and Ngchesar. Also devastated were the southern states of Peleliu and Angaur.

"While government is doing what it can, we believe that it is our obligation, as a member of the private sector, to reach out to the community in this time of need," said Ralph Moses, Blue Bay station manager.

Moses further added, "In a crisis such as this where many

homes were lost and lives changed forever, there is no question, we must all come together to help the victims of this catastrophe. Palau is Blue Bay's home, and as a member of the business community, being able to help out is important to us. This is the least we can do."

Blue Bay Petroleum, Inc. is the authorized distributor of Mobil petroleum products in Palau. It operates 10 service stations, including aircraft refueling at the Palau International Airport. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the check presentation are, from left, Bernadette Soto (Blue Bay comptroller), Anhel Salii (Blue Bay terminal manager), Ralph Moses (Blue Bay station manager), Patrick Tellei (PCC president and Bopha relief coordinator), Vickie Luii (Blue Bay aviation manager), and Warren Umetaro (chief of staff of Vice President Mariur).



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



INVITATION TO BID

ITB13-GOV-056

Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Thursday, December 20, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 11, 2013 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB13-GOV-056". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 24, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 24, 2013 and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 31, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 24, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Saipan Tribune

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

Endgame in Syria

Now that the end of the Assad regime in Syria is a foregone conclusion, the Obama administration is facing the possibility of a nightmare scenario that makes last year's unwinding of Libya look easy to manage by comparison. Syria is both more explosive and more complicated, less likely to hold together when the government collapses and far more dangerous to the region because of its location at the heart of the Middle East.

The downfall will be messy, but the United States and its allies have options that can limit the collateral damage and lay the groundwork for a future that would give Syria's people reason to hope for something better than what they had under Assad.

The first step is to have in place a unified opposition that can provide transitional leadership until Syrians are able to decide for themselves what they want by way of a democratic election.

The only bright spot so far is that U.S. and European leaders have managed to forge such a group, the Syrian Opposition Council, which won recognition on Wednesday from 100 countries, further isolating the Assad regime.

It may be too late for the group to broker a political settlement, given all the blood that's been spilled—at least 40,000 dead—and Assad's intransigence. But the existence of this civilian body is indispensable. Whether it can hold together for long is open to question, but it serves both as a needed counterweight to the anti-Assad forces with weapons and as a vehicle to dispense U.S. and European aid and resources within the country and thus gain legitimacy in the eyes of Syrians.

Another critical move is to isolate and diminish the influence of Islamist extremists who have played an important role in the struggle to topple the government. The administration took an important step in this direction this week by labeling the so-called Nusra Front a branch of al-Qaida in Iraq, a terrorist group.

The risk of alienating an important segment of the rebels must be balanced against the greater need to ensure that nationalist, democratic forces emerge victorious in a post-Assad Syria.

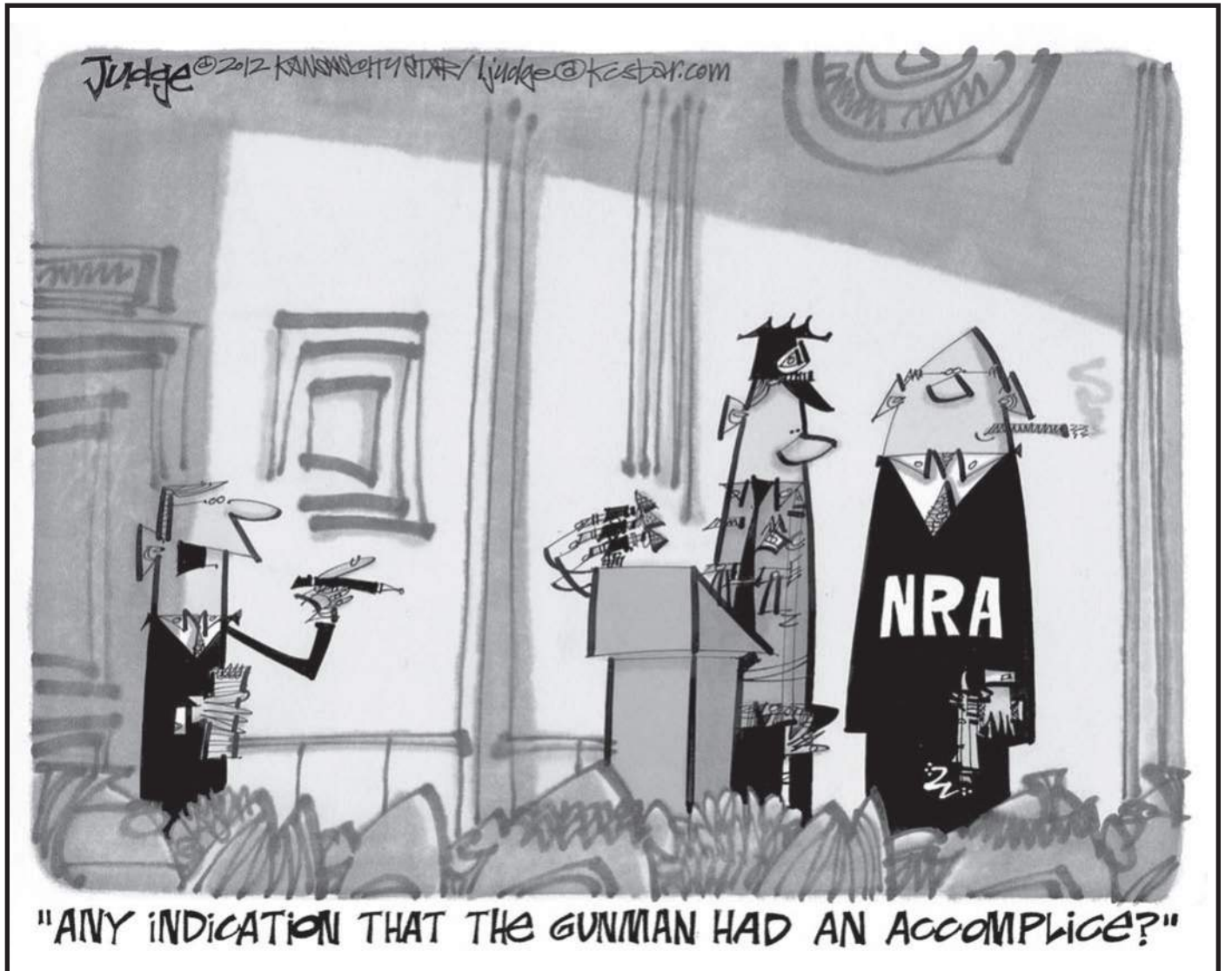
Like it or not, the United States must get more involved in the nuts-and-bolts of the military endgame, even supplying weapons if necessary. The task has been outsourced to allies like Saudi Arabia because of U.S. fears that weapons would fall into the wrong hands.

But now that a political solution seems practically impossible, a hands-off approach runs the risk of having the United States seen as unserious. It would be less likely to influence the military forces that will have a say in running Syria in the future.

Supplying weapons to mainstream forces and secular rebels also gives these forces equal weight with the jihadist fighters armed by others.

The last thing the United States should do in Syria is put boots on the ground. That's why the Obama administration must get more deeply involved to influence the outcome and avoid a victory by extremist factions. There are pitfalls on all sides, but it's time to stop standing on the sidelines.

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My Nippon-Zhongguo connection

Had my first child been a boy, he would have had the unhappy name of Kenichi Zhou Enlai! Just imagine the ribbing he would have gotten in the schoolyard. My wife and I were children of the '60s, forgiving as hell. I "forgave" Japanese atrocities committed in the Philippines during WWII. *Kenichi* means first healthy child in Nihongo.

I was also a cheerleader to Mao Zedong's alter ego, Zhou Enlai, the consummate diplomat, and nemesis of Zhongguo's Gang of Four led by Mao's actress wife Jiang Qing. My first child was born a year after the historic visit of Richard Nixon to China in 1972, set up by the Kissinger-Zhou Enlai tandem. Ergo, Zhou Enlai would have joined the family's litany of names since Mao Zedong would have been too hard to handle in my wife's conservative family, and I would have taken exception to a German addition to my lineage.

Happily, we had a girl. With her mom of Welsh-Scot-English-German Midwest U.S. extraction, and ourself, a Sino-Indo-Malay-cum-a-dab-of-Iberian concoction, Manila-born Kristina grew up to furl a school banner that declared: Mongrels of the World, Unite!

I grew up in an area that still pronounced Yamashita's name with bloodcurdling sound. Rocks rained on our house roof on New Year '65 when I brought home a Japanese student from a Youth Assembly I attended in Dumaguete City the previous week. That was a good 20 years after the famed Nippon general's march north of Manila through our valley.

I would later find out that a Japanese officer warned my Dad that he was on the list of those to be apprehended by the Kempetai. He was suspected of cutting the stencil and running a mimeo machine for the underground's news rag. He was guilty as charged. Had he been apprehended, I might have been born an orphan. My mother was heavy with child while "we" were on the run.

I am no apologist for Japan. They have their ample share of the blame game from WWII. Their atrocities were characteristic of every occupying imperial force in the last five centuries, born out of a sense of superiority nurtured and sustained by a hierarchical social structure that ordered humanity from the heavenly mandate to the lowly peon.

One of my Dad's older brothers was a schoolteacher before the Rising Sun's banner was unfurled over the archipelago, a nationalist noncompliant to the wishes of the American forces who saw it their task to husband the birth of an independent nation through a Commonwealth heavily tilted to the advantage of U.S. commerce. He ended up being a translator to Nippon's occupying forces, thus seen as a collaborator to the regime. American-led guerrillas quartered him at the public square with four carabaos heading separately to the four winds, a warning to Filipinos who cooperated with Nippon.

During the Vietnam War, records of American forces' earlier

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



behavior in the Philippines, particularly in Samar, came to light. Atrocities did not start in Vietnam by drug-crazed exceptions. They were abundantly on display by the flannel-garbed Indian fighters who came to tropical Philippines, already seasoned in leaving behind veils and vales of tears in their paths through native territories, as real estate hungry easterners of European descent moved westward-ho!

Forgiveness came as a strong virtue in our upbringing. As an adult, we came to realize that this was more than just ignoring other's unacceptable behavior. It is acknowledging the objective reality that whatever occurred in the past is done. Finis. There is no way of undoing it; one can, however, learn a lesson from it and decide whether one continues with established patterns or takes on a different course.

We now know that humanity is wired to behave according to the images that informed its growth, and therefore feels comfortable when it automatically just follows the easy path of previous behavior. Education's task is to provide alternative paths.

My Chinese Oral English students introduce themselves at the beginning of the semester, and as a model, I introduce myself first with some guidelines that they then use for their own intro. One of my lines in response to the question of "what makes me happy" is an echo of Star Trek, which I rephrased as "going someplace I had not been previously, and doing something I had not done before."

There is a new context abroad, surprisingly a germ already implanted by those who devised the remembrances of this season, from the progeny of *Millat Ibrahim*, whether it be the Hanukkah/Menorah of the Torah story, the manger Christ-child at Yuletide, the end of Muharram in Islam, or the secular drumbeats of African *matunda ya kwanza*, a celebration of the fruits of the harvest, where humanity affirms the path it hath already trod, but proceed to move someplace it had not previously been, and do something it had not done before. In my old book, that was labeled "forgiveness", or, if I may be allowed a play on words, being "given for" the future.

My Nippon-Zhongguo connection is grounded in the past, but moves unencumbered and freely into the future. Happy holidays!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Five people to cross off your holiday list

The secret to life is that there is no secret. In heaven they ask you to explain all the times you missed an opportunity to find joy.

There is, however, a secret to surviving the holidays, although it has very little to do with heavenly matters.

It has to do with avoiding five types of people who suck joy out of a room the way air gets sucked out of a pressurized cabin in "Snakes on a Plane." You need to protect yourself when you're near these people; they are seasonal vampires.

They don't come out after dark, they come out after Black Friday.

America's First Christmas

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



Gen. George Washington's army retreated from New York in ignominy in November 1776. As it moved through New Jersey, Lt. James Monroe, the future president, stood by the road and counted the troops: 3,000 left from an original force of 30,000.

In December 1776, the future of America hung on the fate of a bedraggled army barely a step ahead of annihilation.

The Americans confronted about two-thirds of the strength of the British army, and half its navy, not to mention thousands of German mercenaries. The defense of New York was barely worthy of the name. When British troops crossed into Manhattan at Kips Bay, the Americans ran. Washington reportedly exclaimed in despair, "Are these the men with which I am to defend America?"

Later, from the New Jersey Palisades, he watched as the British took Fort Washington across the Hudson, held by 3,000 American troops, and put surrendering Americans to the sword. According to one account, Washington turned away and wept "with the tenderness of a child."

British strategy depended on shattering American faith in the Continental Army and reconciling the rebellious colonies to the Crown. As the Americans fled to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, the British occupied New Jersey and offered an amnesty to anyone declaring his loyalty. They had thousands of takers, including one signer of the Declaration of Independence.

With expiring enlistments about to reduce his army further, Washington decided on a scheme to cross the Delaware on Christmas and surprise the Hessian garrison in Trenton. "If the raid backfired," Washington biographer Ron Chernow writes, "the war was likely over and he would be captured and killed."

Behind schedule, Washington's main force of 2,400 started crossing the river that night. Yes, most of them were standing up in flat-bottomed boats. Yes, there were ice floes. It wasn't until 4 a.m. that all the men were across the river. They had 9 miles still to march to Trenton in a driving storm and no chance of making it before daybreak. Washington considered calling it off, but he had already come too far.

Arriving at Trenton at 8 a.m., his spirited troops seemed "to vie with the other in pressing forward," he wrote afterward. They surprised the Hessians, who didn't expect an attack in such weather. The battle ended quickly—22 Hessians killed, 83 seriously wounded and 900 captured, to two American combat deaths.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world," British historian George Trevelyan wrote.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Hackett Fischer sees in the American resurgence after our fortunes were at their lowest a reassuring aspect of our national character in this season of discontent: We respond when pressed. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a great supporter of the American cause, wrote: "Our republics cannot exist long in prosperity. We require adversity and appear to possess most of the republican spirit when most depressed." May it still be so.

They drain dry life's emotional balance until all that's left are dregs of good cheer and a bunch of cranky crumbs.

Let's identify them so that we're safe this season.

Type 1: The Vain Man. There are now guys asking, "Does this Santa suit make me look fat?" They're asking for hair plugs and eye lifts from Santa. These guys are trying to pick up cute elves. They think they don't need Santa's bifocals to read gift lists. They think they are the prize. They are wrong.

Type 2: The Sentimental Lady. A woman who makes her daughter's ice skates into earrings is a woman who needs to unclasp her fist from the throat of The Ghost of Christmas Past. This is a person who launches into speeches about how happy her family was before the: a) divorce; b) complete failure of the culture to value important traditions such as the lighting of multiple scented candles to eclipse the smell of expired potpourri; c) her children's marriages to heathens, foreigners or people whose families refuse to acknowledge that, because they selfishly choose to live out of state, they have no right to claim time with the little ones between Halloween and Arbor Day.

Type 3: The Nut-Avoider. Don't write letters to the editor; I'm not talking about you—or, at least, about only you. I have allergies and half my family is vegan, so I know what it's like to make compromises. At any gathering in my home, there are peanut-avoiders, meat-avoiders, salt-avoiders, alcohol-avoiders, fructose-avoiders, gluten-avoiders and dairy-avoiders. But anybody with a sanctimonious inability to be within spitting distance of those who mate and vote—let alone eat and drink—differently from themselves should not expect to sit at the table with others unless they compromise. I have profound physical reactions during meals that I must contain. I cannot, for example, sit next to someone who brings an electronic device to a table without moving my arms so wildly that the device smashes to the floor. If I can manage, so can the vegan sodium-free Wiccan friend who's cozied up to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun violence

While watching the morning news on CNN last Friday, an individual was being interviewed and breaking news came up. The anchorman noted that there was a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut and there is no further information. He later corrected himself, that it is not Newton but Newtown. The report brought back memories of the Cleveland Elementary Massacre in Stockton, California in 1989. The thought of having a gunman in an elementary school was mind twisting and we were hoping that the report was an error. But as we switched to other channels, the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting was being broadcast in front of our very eyes.

Everyone is talking about gun reform in the United States. The Oregon (mall), Colorado (high school and movie theater), New York (Long Island railroad) and the Wisconsin (Sikh temple) shooting were the topic of the day. The president of the United States of America appeared on television and he was emotional for what had happened in Newtown. Our heart cried out as majority of the Sandy Hook victims were 6 years old. Who on earth would do such a thing to innocent souls? It is time for us as a society to start reflecting on issues affecting us as a whole. Do we want to make changes for the sake of our guaranteed rights under the U.S. Constitution and its amendments? Do we want to make changes to our learned behavior from our forefathers and elders? How do we define right from wrong in our island culture? In some states, one may carry a pistol on his waist within the view of the community, but doing such a thing in another state or territory will be your ticket to the federal pen.

The legal firearms or caliber in the Mariana Isle are .410 shotguns and any rifle within .22 caliber (.220 to .229). The strict gun control in the CNMI has not prevented individuals from owning higher caliber firearms. Based on our research on previous illegal firearms that were confiscated by the CNMI government in the past, the CNMI has more illegal firearms per capita than a small city in the state of California. Based on such assumption, gun-related homicides in the CNMI are unheard of in comparison to the city of Stockton, California. In our opinion, our island familial structure is the answer to such predicament.

The notion that amending our right to bear arms will be the solution to stop mass shootings in the country is the most unfounded way of thinking. Thousands of firearms have been sold in the past,

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.



the Pentecostal bacon lover. No, they cannot use their electronic devices to play games in order to bond.

Type 4: The Terrifyingly Happy. These folks send cards with pictures of their adorable offspring but without supplying either a return address or their own identities, thereby remaining as anonymous as those under witness protection. These are the families who name their kids after household objects or Norse gods. Their cards read "Happy Holidays from All of Us! Here are the kids—Ooegr, Kickstand, Beret and baby Nimmermehr!" You have no idea who they. However, such families are usually fully occupied by taking pictures of each other. The danger of seeing them in the flesh is low.

Type 5: The Competitive Do-Gooder. This person wields every random act of kindness as a bludgeon. If you mention you donated canned goods to the soup kitchen, she'll explain how last year she made and served stew. If you boast about giving money to the local animal shelter, she'll trot out her two three-legged dogs and her deaf ferret. So you end up putting the soup kitchen and shelter in your will. You then discover she's already done that. Ha, ha! You lose!

Yet because everybody else wins, it's not real defeat.

What you found instead is an opportunity for joy. Laughter brings us a little closer to heaven—or, at the very least, closer to each other. And that's what the holidays are for, after all.

the present, and in the future throughout the United States legally and many of them will end up in the streets of America (illegally). The mentality of not-in-my-backyard is catching up in our society, because gun violence in the past usually happened within low-income neighborhoods. The problem of gun violence in our society is here to stay and no amount of legislation can stop such epidemic. Education, awareness, prevention and familial structure within our society are the key to minimize future shooting victims in our community.

Segundo Castro

Fresno, Calif.

Thank you

As I prepare to exit the Tinian Senior Citizen Center as per my personnel action from Personnel Office, where my employment is not to exceed Jan. 21, 2013 (provisional appointment), I would like to leave a strong message to the leaders and people of Tinian. I would like to thank everyone for the destructive criticisms labeled against me during my short time at the Tinian Senior Citizens Center. For all the allegations raised against me, I say "thank you and may God bless you all."

To the political spectators and participants inside the arena, I say "Tinian can never move forward to brand newness and fair distribution of opportunities under continuous dirty and deadly sharp stones." I've had the experience to get hit by many of them. But my body and soul has managed to survive considering the many injuries and blood flowing down all over my body. My total rejection at the Tinian Senior Citizens Center has taught me a final lesson to learn in the remaining years of my life. I just have to accept the many realities and expectations of the people of Tinian. I must continue with my normal life after my departure from employment and never again return to seek employment.

To the leaders of Tinian, I say "thank you for your oppositional stance against my appointment at the center." In as much as I would have wanted to improve the Aging Center, I just couldn't do it within the limited time frame of my employment. Even if given the opportunity that am the most qualified to run and manage the Tinian Senior Citizens Center, I will deny such offer once and for all. Period.

Martin M. Sakisat

San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

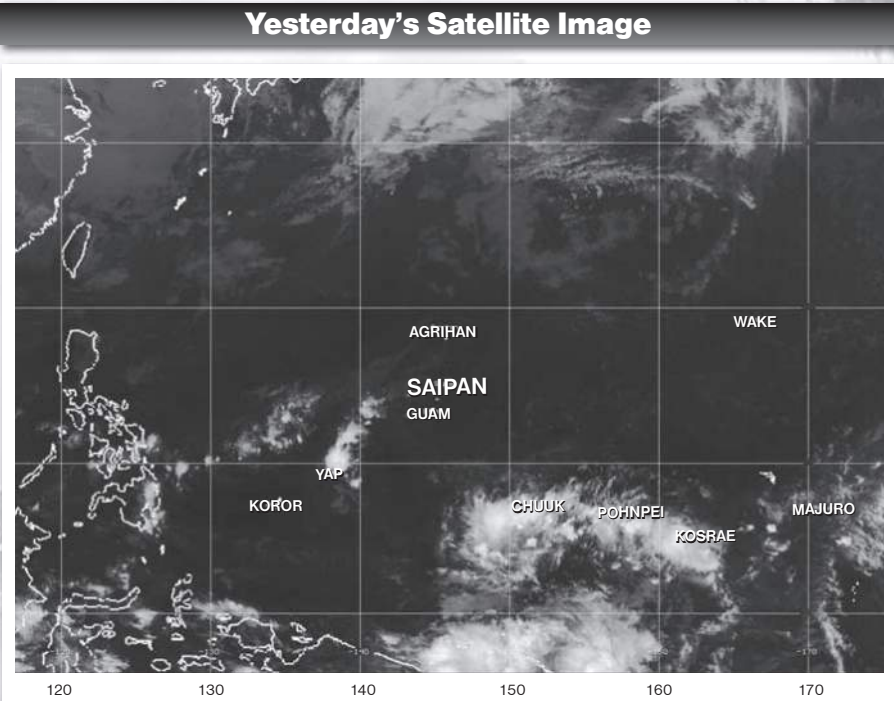
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 81

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 24 ▼ 13
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 56
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 63
New York	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 25
Rome	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 38
Salem	Showers	▲ 40 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 27 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 41

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
11:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A diffuse shear line extends southwestward from near Wake Island at 20N160E to north of Saipan at 16N145E to west of Koror and Yap west of 10N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north of Yap and Koror within 80 miles of a line from 10N130E to north of Saipan at 16N145E to 17N142E. A surface trough just east of Yap runs from 9N139E to 10N138E to 15N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 40 miles of a line from 8N140E to 10N139E to 14N142E. A trade-wind disturbance over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 8N from 146E to 164E. A surface trough curves northward from EQ176E to 14N177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located east of the Marshalls between 9N and the equator along and east of the trough.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:37 AM	5:50 PM	Today	10:37 AM	10:48 PM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM	Wednesday	11:20 AM	11:40 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM	Thursday	12:00 AM	
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM	Friday	12:39 PM	12:30 AM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM	Saturday	1:19 PM	1:20 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM	
					UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan					
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily		
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily		
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily		

Koblerville school, Mount Carmel top caroling contest



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Koblerville Elementary School students perform at the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School and Mount Carmel high school students were adjudged winners in their respective categories at the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15.

The Home of the Hugging Umang accumulated 72 points from the judges with their yuletide carols in various languages accompanied by the school band and Santa Claus, beating other participating schools in the elementary division for the fourth consecutive year.

Dressed in red shirts and jeans for boys and white shirts and red skirts for girls, about 30 Koblerville students ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade took part in the annual competition under the coaching of Glee Club coordinator Karen Alla, according to school principal Rizalina Purugganan.

"From the choreography and voices to their presentation and costumes, the students did an excellent job. We're very proud of them," she said in an interview after the announcement of winners.

Koblerville Elementary School took home \$1,000 and Purugganan said the money will be used to support the Glee Club's activities, including next year's caroling contest and in the upcoming Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Other winners in the elementary division were Dandan Elementary School, second place, \$700; Mount Carmel School, third place, \$500; and Oleai Elementary School, fourth place, \$400. Agape Christian School and Green Meadows also took part in the event and received consolation prizes.

Mount Carmel School, which

joined the competition for the first time this year, also reigned in the high school division, winning \$750 after defeating their only challenger with their skit and song number, *All I Want for Christmas is You*.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said over 30 elementary students and some

24 high school students were involved in the contest, which took about a month to prepare. The competition also served as a venue for the first public performance of Mount Carmel's drum band, he added.

"I'm very proud of our students. They worked hard. It's a great Christmas gift for our

school," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also thanked the Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Marianas Walking Association, and PDM Promoters, Inc.—collectively known as Friends of Paseo de Marianas—for hosting the event.

Kagman High School, mean-

while, received applause from the audiences after highlighting the need to have families spend quality time during the holiday season. They won \$600.

The participants were evaluated by a panel of judges composed of local musician Gus Kaipat, retired educator Joe Limes, Marianas Walking Association's Hiroko Tenorio, KKMP's Gary Sword, and Power 99's Tony Joe.

Kaipat, in a separate interview, said the annual competition gets more and more exciting every year. He expressed hope that other elements will be added in next year's contest, such as original compositions.

According to Kaipat, events

like the Christmas in the Marianas contests help promote the talents of the children to the islands' visitors.

"We should have more of these events so we can show the world that we have so many talents out here. That's the best way to promote our ancestral music and that's how we put ourselves in the map," he said.

Saturday's event kicked off with a health walk led by Marianas Walking Association. About 50 individuals took part in the walk that began from the Koban or police station at Paseo de Marianas then to Beach Road up to the old Japanese tank by the Quartermaster Road and back.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) NO. 02-0408

-v-)
ANGELINA A.)
MANGLONA,)
Defendant.)
FOURTH
AMENDED
NOTICE
OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 18, 2013, at the hour of 12:00 noon, at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 7th day of December, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. JAHANGIR)
ALAM)
Petitioner,) FCD-DI CIVIL
) ACTION
vs.) NO. 12-0544
LANGU-LINORE)
NORES,)
Respondent.)

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504812, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court



Century Insurance Co., Ltd.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GENERAL MANAGER

Bachelors Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurers which involves understanding of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

SUPERVISOR, UNDERWRITING & CLAIMS

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communications skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software Geniisys. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

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College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business Management with 10 years experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in the Claims Department. Must be knowledgeable in automotive, marine, casualty, workers compensation, and property damage adjusting and estimation. Responsible for the evaluation, monitoring and adjustment of claims in accordance with company practices and procedures. Must also be knowledgeable on reinsurance and have the ability to interpret statistical information for reinsurance purposes. Must have excellent customer service skills, time management, written and oral communication skills. Must be computer literate and proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs.

ACCOUNTANT (3)

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours. CPA not required.

SYSTEM ANALYST

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance data base and program - Geniisys and an indepth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to Century Insurance Company (CIC) office at the JP Center Building - Ground Floor on Beach Road Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.



Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER - CHINA MARKET

Qualifications: Must have at least 4 years of progressive experience in management level and 5 years in the Hospitality Industry. Able to multi-task and must possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Proficient in both oral and written communication (English and Mandarin Chinese). Planning and problem-solving skills are essential. Must have the ability to manage a department in a changing environment and manage employees' performance.

(3) MASSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) EVENTS MANAGER

Qualifications: Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage/Events preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately, creatively and independently in a fast-paced environment. 5 years work experience required. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings and/or weekends.

Application Forms may be obtained from our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 29, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

Business

Millions face higher taxes real soon without fix

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of families and businesses will get hit by big tax increases a lot sooner than many realize if Congress and the White House don't agree on a plan to skirt the year-end fiscal cliff of higher tax rates and big government spending cuts.

In fact, they already have.

More than 70 tax breaks enjoyed by individuals and businesses expired at the end of 2011. If Congress doesn't extend them retroactively back to the beginning of this year, a typical middle-class family could face a \$4,000 tax increase when it files its 2012 return in the spring, according to an analysis by H&R Block, the tax preparing giant.

At the same time, businesses could lose dozens of tax breaks they have enjoyed for years, including generous credits for investing in research and development, write-offs for restaurants and retail stores that expand or upgrade, and tax breaks for financial companies with overseas subsidiaries.

Even if Congress does act, last-minute changes to federal tax laws could make it difficult for taxpayers to figure out their 2012 tax bills.

"We're really expecting this upcoming tax season to be one of the more challenging ones on record," said Kathy Pickering, executive director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block. "For your 2012 returns there's so much confusion about what will be impacted."

Much of Washington is consumed by negotiations over how to address automatic tax increases scheduled to take effect next year. That's when tax cuts first enacted under President George W. Bush, and ex-



In this Dec. 10, 2012 file photo, fog obscures the Capitol dome on Capitol Hill in Washington. Big tax increases will hit millions of families and businesses a lot sooner than many realize if Congress and the White House don't agree on a plan to avoid the year-end fiscal cliff of automatic tax increases and government spending cuts.

tended under President Barack Obama, are scheduled to expire. A temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax is set to vanish as well.

Obama wants to let the Bush-era tax cuts expire on incomes above \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples, while extending the tax cuts for people making less.

House Speaker John Boehner and other Republicans have said they are open to more tax revenue through reducing or eliminating unspecified tax breaks. But Boehner, R-Ohio, late last week moved toward

the president's position, proposing raising top rates for people earning more than \$1 million in exchange for deeper spending cuts, particularly in health care and other mandatory spending programs.

Obama has not accepted that offer, according to people familiar with the talks, but Boehner's offer suggests that the negotiations are being renewed after appearing stalled just days ago.

Lost in the debate is a big package of tax breaks that already expired for 2012. Lawmakers in both parties say they

Chinese leaders promise reform, spending if needed

BEIJING (AP)—China's new Communist Party leaders are promising reforms aimed at reducing reliance on exports and more spending if needed to prop up a shaky economic recovery.

In the first statement of their economic goals since taking power in November, the new party leaders pledged continuity Sunday with long-term plans aimed at nurturing self-sustaining growth and raising incomes. There was no indication of plans for major changes or new stimulus.

They promised to support domestic consumption, the growth of small businesses that generate jobs and more migration by rural residents into expanding cities to find better-paid jobs.

The new party general secretary, Xi Jinping, and other leaders are under pressure to overhaul an economic model based

on exports and investment that delivered three decades of rapid growth but is running out of steam. Companies and political analysts are watching to see how far they are willing to go in remodeling the state-dominated economy.

In the shorter term, they also need to keep a recovery from China's deepest economic downturn since the 2008 global crisis on track.

Party leaders promised a "proactive fiscal policy" and "prudent monetary policy" in a statement distributed by the official Xinhua News Agency at the end of a two-day annual planning meeting. That refers to willingness to boost government spending if needed and to keep credit easy so long as inflation stays low.

The world's second-largest economy is limping out of the slump that pushed growth to a

three-and-a-half-year low of 7.4 percent in the latest quarter but weak November trade data suggested the rebound might be faltering.

The World Bank and other analysts say Beijing needs to curb dominant state companies and promote service industries and consumer spending to keep incomes rising. They say without prompt action, growth might slow abruptly, leaving China stuck at middle-income levels.

Possible reforms face potential opposition from state companies that might see their privileges diminished and have influential allies in the party.

"If China does not change its strategy, it risks falling into the 'middle income trap'," Robert Zoellick, former World Bank president, said in a speech at a Beijing business conference last week.

Movement seen in 'fiscal cliff' talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Big differences remain, but there is finally movement in long-stalled talks on avoiding the "fiscal cliff."

House Speaker John Boehner is offering \$1 trillion in higher tax revenue over 10 years and an increase in the top tax rate on people making more than \$1 million a year. He's also offering a large enough extension in the government's borrowing cap to fund the government for one year before the issue must be revisited—conditioned on Obama agreeing to the \$1 trillion in cuts. The offer, made Friday after a long impasse between Boehner, R-Ohio, and President Barack Obama, calls for about \$450 billion in revenue from increasing the top rate on million-dollar-plus income from 35 percent to the Clinton-

era rate of 39.6 percent.

The additional revenue would be collected through a rewrite of the tax code next year and by slowing the inflation adjustments made to tax brackets.

In return, Boehner is asking for \$1 trillion in spending cuts from government benefit programs like Medicare. Those cuts would defer most of a painful set of across-the-board spending cuts set to slash many domestic programs and the Pentagon budget by 8-9 percent, starting in January.

Boehner also continues to press for a less generous inflation adjustment for Social Security benefits, a move endorsed by many budget hawks. Obama and Democrats on last year's deficit "supercommittee" endorsed the idea in offers made last year, but they're more reluctant now.

expect those tax cuts to be addressed in any deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff." But they don't want to deal with them separately because that would reduce pressure to reach a broader budget agreement.

The biggest tax increase facing individuals for this year is the alternative minimum tax, or AMT. The tax was first enacted in 1969 to ensure that wealthy people can't use tax breaks to avoid paying any federal taxes. The AMT, however, was never adjusted for inflation, so Congress routinely does that to keep it from imposing hefty tax increases on millions of middle-income families.

Congress last adjusted the AMT in 2010, and about 4 million taxpayers paid it 2011. Without a new adjustment for the 2012 tax year, the AMT would reach an additional 28 million taxpayers, increasing their tax bill by an average of \$3,700.

The tax would affect individuals making more \$33,750 and married couples making more than \$45,000, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Diet Pepsi quietly changes sweetener

NEW YORK (AP)—Diet Pepsi is quietly changing its sweetener ahead of a major rebranding of the soft drink set for next month. The change comes as PepsiCo Inc. looks to reinvigorate its namesake brands after losing market share to Coca-Cola Co. in recent years. Cans of Diet Pepsi around the country now list a mix of two artificial sweeteners, a pairing that is commonly found in newer diet

sodas. Previously, Diet Pepsi used only aspartame, which is sensitive to heat and breaks down more easily.

Massive Napa do-over prompts grape plant shortage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A massive replanting in Napa Valley of some of the world's priciest vineyards is so widespread a critical shortage of grapevine root stock has developed. Giant suppliers such as Sunridge

Nurseries in Bakersfield are taking orders for 2014 and beyond. The shortage is due to a trifecta of developments. Aging cabernet vines planted after the deadly phylloxera (fil-OX-er-uh) outbreak across Napa Valley in the 1980s are due to be replaced. The reviving economy has created a surge in demand for premium grapes. And some growers are looking for clones and varieties better suited for their microclimates. Mondavi alone is planting 1.5 million new vines.

Nation

Conn. gunman had hundreds of rounds of ammunition

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)—The gunman in the Connecticut shooting rampage was carrying an arsenal of hundreds of rounds of especially deadly ammunition—enough to kill just about every student in the school if given enough time, authorities said Sunday, raising the chilling possibility that the bloodbath

could have been far worse.

Adam Lanza shot himself in the head just as he heard police drawing near to the classroom where he was slaughtering helpless children, but he had more ammunition at the ready in the form of multiple, high-capacity clips each capable of holding 30 bullets.

High court fight looms over right to carry a gun

WASHINGTON (AP)—The next big issue in the national debate over guns—whether people have a right to be armed in public—is moving closer to Supreme Court review.

A provocative ruling by a panel of federal appeals court judges in Chicago struck down the only statewide ban on carrying concealed weapons, in Illinois. The ruling is somewhat at odds with those of other federal courts that have largely upheld state and local gun laws, including restrictions on concealed weapons, since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling declaring that people have a right to have a gun for self-defense.

In, 2008, the court voted 5-4 in *District of Columbia v. Heller* to strike down Washington's ban on handgun ownership and focused mainly on the right to defend one's own home. The court left for another day how broadly the Second Amendment may protect gun rights in other settings.

Legal scholars say the competing appellate rulings mean that day is drawing near for a new high court case on gun rights.

The appeals court ruling in

Chicago came early in a week that ended with the mass shooting in Connecticut that left 28 people dead, including 20 children at an elementary school and the presumed gunman.

Laurie Levenson, a professor at the Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said that along with thorny legal issues, "we have the overlay of these tragedies hitting us on a somewhat regular basis."

The author of a book that traces the battle over gun control in the U.S. said he thinks Supreme Court intervention is likely in the short-term. "Since the *Heller* case, the next great question for the Supreme Court to decide was whether there is a right to carry guns in public," said UCLA law professor Adam Winkler, whose book "Gunfight" was published last year.

Roughly 40 states make it easy for people to carry a gun in public. But in California, New York and a few other states, local and state regulations make it difficult if not impossible to get a license to carry a weapon. Illinois and the District of Columbia have been the only places to refuse to allow people to be armed in public.



Mourners gather for a candlelight vigil at Ram's Pasture to remember shooting victims, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 in Newtown, Conn. A gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children.

The disclosure on Sunday sent shudders throughout this picturesque New England community as grieving families sought to comfort each other during church services devoted to impossible questions like that of a 6-year-old girl who asked her mother: "The little children, are they with the angels?"

With so much grieving left to do, many of Newtown's 27,000 people wondered whether life could ever return to normal. And as the workweek was set to begin, parents weighed whether to send their own children back

to school.

Gov. Dannel Malloy said the shooter decided to kill himself when he heard police closing in about 10 minutes into the attack.

"We surmise that it was during the second classroom episode that he heard responders coming and apparently at that decided to take his own life," Malloy said on ABC's "This Week."

Police said they found hundreds of unused bullets at the school, which enrolled about

450 students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

"There was a lot of ammo, a lot of clips," said state police Lt. Paul Vance. "Certainly a lot of lives were potentially saved."

The chief medical examiner has said the ammunition was the type designed to break up inside a victim's body and inflict the maximum amount of damage, tearing apart bone and tissue.

By late afternoon, President Barack Obama arrived to con-

sole families and speak at a vigil in memory of the 26 teachers and schoolchildren who were killed in the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

Newtown officials couldn't say whether Sandy Hook Elementary School would ever reopen. The school district was considering sending surviving students to an empty school in nearby Monroe. But for many parents, it was much too soon to contemplate resuming school-day routines.

Another sorrowful trip for Obama to grieving town

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)—For President Barack Obama, it was another sorrowful visit to another grieving community full of broken hearts from unimaginable violence.

The spot, this time, was Newtown, Conn., where on Friday a man opened fire inside Sandy Hook Elementary School. The toll: 26 dead, including 20 boys and girls just 6 or 7 years old.

The president met privately Sunday afternoon at Newtown High School, about a mile and a half from Sandy Hook Elementary, with families of the victims and with emergency personnel who responded to the shootings.

In the evening, he was to speak at an interfaith vigil. As the auditorium began to fill, people wore looks of disbelief. Many parents came with their children, some of the boys and girls holding teddy bears and other stuffed toys. The black stage was spare, with just an American flag, a Connecticut flag and a lectern bearing the

presidential seal.

"We're halfway between grief and hope," said Curt Brantl, whose fourth-grade daughter was in the library of the elementary school when the shootings occurred. She was not harmed.

Obama was addressing not only the residents of Newtown, but also a stunned nation.

A White House official said Obama is the primary author of his speech and edited his remarks on the flight to Connecticut with presidential speechwriter Cody Keenan.

Keenan helped Obama write his speech last year following the shootings in Tucson, Ariz., that left six dead and 13 wounded, including Rep. Gabby Giffords.

"As a nation, we have endured far too many of these tragedies in the last few years," Obama said in his weekly radio address Saturday. "An elementary school in Newtown. A shopping mall in Oregon. A house of worship in Wisconsin. A movie theater in Colorado. Countless

street corners in places like Chicago and Philadelphia."

Just last summer, Obama went to Aurora, Colo., to visit victims and families after a shooting spree at a movie theater in the Denver suburb left 12 dead. He went to Tucson, Ariz., in January of last year after six people were killed and 13 were wounded, including then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, outside a grocery store.

In November 2009, Obama traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to speak at the memorial service for 13 service members who were killed on the post by another soldier.

"We have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this. Regardless of the politics," Obama said in his broadcast remarks.

After the Colorado shooting in July, the White House made clear that Obama would not propose new gun restrictions in an election year and said he favored better enforcement of existing laws.

Schools around US increase security after massacre

MIAMI (AP)—Jessica Kornfeld sat down with her son and daughter after school on Friday and shared with them the unthinkable, horrific news out of Connecticut: Someone had stormed into an elementary school and killed children nearly their same age.

"They're just babies," her 10-year-old son said. "What could they have done?"

Kornfeld assured him the victims had done nothing wrong, and that the shootings didn't make sense to anybody. She reminded her children that they were with her, and safe.

"But it could have been us," her son replied.

School administrators across the nation have pledged to add police patrols, review security plans and make guidance counselors available in their districts as students return to classes Monday for the first time since the massa-

cre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

And yet, it is pretty near impossible for parents not to be anxious and apprehensive.

"For them, you need to pretend that you're OK," said Kornfeld, of Pinecrest, Fla., a village in Miami-Dade County. "But it's scary."

Teachers shared their concerns and braced themselves for what they would face in the classroom Monday.

"It's going to be a tough day," said Richard Cantlupe, an American history teacher at Westglades Middle School in Parkland, Fla. "This was like our 9/11 for school teachers."

Cantlupe said he will tell his students that his number one job is to keep them safe, and that like the teachers in Connecticut, he would do anything to make sure they stay out of harm's way. He is also beginning to

teach about the Constitution and expects to take questions on the Second Amendment.

"It's going to lead right into the controversy over gun control," he said.

In an effort to ensure their students' safety and calm parents' nerves, school districts across the United States have asked police departments to increase patrols and have sent messages to parents outlining safety plans that they assured them are regularly reviewed and rehearsed.

Some officials refused to discuss plans publicly in detail, but it was clear that vigilance will be high this week at schools everywhere in the aftermath of one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history: Twenty-six people were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, including 20 children ages 6 and 7. The gunman then shot and killed himself.

Asia

After landslide, Abe says Japan has difficult road

TOKYO (AP)—After leading his conservative party to a landslide victory that will bring it back to power after a three-year hiatus, Shinzo Abe stressed Monday that the road ahead will not be easy as he tries to revive Japan's sputtering economy and bolster its national security amid deteriorating relations with China.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which led Japan for most of the post-World War II era until it was dumped as the economy fizzled in 2009, won 294 seats in the 480-seat lower house of parliament in Sunday's nationwide elections, according to media reports. Official results were expected later Monday.

With the elections over, a vote among the members of parliament to install the new prime minister is expected as soon as Dec. 25. Abe, who was prime minister from 2006-2007, is almost certain of winning that vote because the LDP now holds the majority in the lower house.

"We won more seats than even we expected," Abe, 58, said Monday. "We have a very



Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party leader Shinzo Abe answers a reporter's question at the party headquarters in Tokyo, Sunday night, Dec. 16, 2012.

heavy responsibility."

Outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda announced his resignation late Sunday, calling the election results "severe" and acknowledging his party failed to live up to the nation's high expectations.

His Democratic Party of Japan reportedly won only 57 seats. Among its casualties were eight Cabinet ministers—the most lost in an elec-

tion since World War II.

Economic issues, including plans to raise taxes and other measures to bolster Japan's underperforming economy, were the top concerns among voters.

Abe, who would be Japan's seventh prime minister in 6 1/2 years, will likely push for increased public works spending and lobby for stronger moves by the central bank to break Japan out of its deflationary trap.

PH set to OK divisive contraceptives law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine legislators were set to pass a landmark law Monday that would provide government funding for contraceptives and sexuality classes in schools despite strong opposition by the dominant Roman Catholic Church, which said the measure would destroy family life.

President Benigno Aquino III, who certified the bill as urgent, considers it a major step toward reducing maternal deaths and promoting family planning in the impoverished country, which has one of Asia's fastest-growing populations. Church leaders said in a pastoral letter Sunday that if passed, the bill would put the

moral fiber of the nation at risk.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, vice president of the Philippines' Bishops Conference, said that "the wide and free accessibility of contraceptives will result in the destruction of family life."

"Money for contraceptives can be better used for education and authentic health care," he said, adding that "those who corrupt the minds of children will invoke divine wrath on themselves."

The bill languished in Congress for 10 years as legislators avoided upsetting the conservative bishops, who helped mobilize popular support for the 1986 "people power" revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos

and the 2001 overthrow of another president, Joseph Estrada.

But in a sign of changing times and attitudes, particularly across generations, reformist civil society groups and Aquino threw their weight behind the bill despite the threat of a backlash.

An independent survey in June last year found 68 percent of respondents agreed that the government should fund all means of family planning. An October survey of 600 teenagers in Manila, the capital, also carried out by the Social Weather Stations, found that 87 percent believed the government should provide reproductive health services to the poor.

deal with losses and search for missing loved ones, especially in the worst-hit provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, where international aid groups have descended.

Nepal farmers destroy chicken imported by KFC

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Poultry farmers in Nepal have stopped trucks importing chicken from India for KFC restaurants and destroyed the cargo. Nepal has banned chicken from India since bird flu broke out in India four years ago. Chief government administrator of Dhading district Bed Prasad Kharel says farmers stopped and seized two trucks bringing the frozen chicken to Nepal's capital, Katmandu, on Saturday. A brief scuffle broke out between police and the farm-

ers. Police say authorities took control of the trucks, but that after consultation with livestock officials the cargo was dumped in a pit and covered.

Royal hoax nurse's family in India for her funeral

MANGALORE, India (AP)—The family of a nurse found hanging in her room days after she had been duped by a hoax call from an Australian radio station about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge arrived in India Sunday for her funeral. The funeral of Jacintha Saldanha is to take place in Shirva, her hometown in southwest India, on Monday. Saldanha's husband and two children accompanied her body from London to the nearby port city of Mangalore. Her death is being investigated as an apparent suicide.

World

Syrian vice president: both sides losing in war

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's long-time vice president said Sunday that his regime and the rebels are both going down a losing path after 21 months of civil war, a rare admission by a top government official that President Bashar Assad's victory is unlikely.

The comments by Farouk al-Sharaa came as an Islamist faction of Syrian rebels captured an infantry base in the northern city of Aleppo, and Syrian warplanes blasted a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, killing eight people and wounding dozens, activists said.

Al-Sharaa told the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar that neither the rebels nor the Assad regime can "decide the battle militarily." It appeared to be an attempt to show that the rebels are not the solution to the Syria conflict, and their victory might bring chaos to the country.

Balancing that, he said the Assad regime "cannot achieve change."

The solution to the conflict must come from within Syria, al-Sharaa said, adding that any political settlement "must include stopping all types of violence, and the creation of a national unity government with wide powers."

The Assad regime has long rejected Western involvement in the civil war and has called for talks with the opposition. Most rebel groups refuse to meet with Assad, demanding his removal from power before laying down their arms.

Excerpts of the interview were posted on Al-Akhbar's English-language website late Sunday. The full interview will be published on Monday, the newspaper said.

Last week more than 100 nations, including the U.S., recognized the new Syrian opposition council as the legitimate

representative of the country, a boost for the opposition forces that have been bombing regime targets in and around Damascus, once an impregnable stronghold of the Assad regime.

In the latest blow to Assad, rebels overran a military base in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, the second military installation to fall there in a week.

A statement by the al-Tawheed Brigade said the rebels "fully liberated" the military facility in Aleppo on Saturday. It was posted on al-Tawheed's official website on Sunday and said the Islamist rebel brigade's commander was killed in the battle.

The complex, known as Hanano Barracks, includes an army base, a recruiting center and a military school.

The Al-Tawheed Brigade is one of the largest rebel groups operating in Aleppo, which has been a major front in the civil war since July.

One of the videos posted on the group's website shows the body of a man the narrator says is "the hero and martyr who was killed on the day of liberating the infantry school," apparently the Al-Tawheed commander, Col. Youssef al-Jader. A boy said to be the commander's son is seen crying as he leans over the dead man.

In a related development, Egypt said Sunday that it has evacuated more than 4,000 of its nationals from Syria over the past few months. The Cairo Foreign Ministry statement did not give further details. Egypt's national airline halted flights to and from Syria last month because of the deteriorating security situation.

Also Sunday, Iran put forward a six-point plan to end the Syria civil war, including negotiations, presidential elections and a halt to arms shipments.

No water, power, cash: Syria rebels run broke town

MAARET MISREEN, Syria (AP)—The anti-regime locals who have thrown together a ramshackle administration to run this northern Syrian town have one main struggle: Finding money to keep their community alive. Like other nearby rebel-held towns, Maaret Misreen is broke.

Many of the town's 45,000 residents are out of work. There's no cash to keep water or electricity running, so they come on only sporadically. Prices have skyrocketed. Long lines form at the only working bakery for miles around, creating vulnerable potential targets for airstrikes.

This week, the town's main mosque preacher, Abdel Rahim Attoun—who now doubles as the town judge—appealed to worshippers to chip in to buy fuel for communal water pumps. He asked each family to donate 200 Syrian pounds, a little under \$3, the cost of a large bunch of bananas.

But even that's too much for many residents, so no one is being forced to donate, said 29-year-old Amer Ahmado, who is an electronics engineer but was picked by the newly formed local council for the job of managing the town's meager finances.

The situation is repeated across the swath of rebel-controlled territory in northwestern Syria, said Zafer Amoura, a lawyer who represents Maaret Misreen in an emerging provincial council.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Death toll from PH typhoon breaches 1,000

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The death toll from a typhoon that devastated mountainous and coastal towns in the southern Philippines with ferocious winds and flash floods this month has risen to more than 1,000. Benito Ramos, who heads the government's main disaster-response agency, said Sunday that previously unreported deaths have brought the toll wrought by Typhoon Bopha to 1,020. A massive search for 844 other people, including hundreds of fishermen and villagers who went missing in flood-swept mountainside towns, is to continue through the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Ramos said army troops, police and government personnel have canceled Christmas celebrations to help survivors

WORLD BRIEFS

4 police killed in Benghazi in eastern Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Four policemen were shot dead in Libya's troubled eastern city of Benghazi on Sunday when gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades on a security compound there, according to the Interior Ministry. Police spokesman Ezzedine al-Fazani said that the attack was linked to the recent detention of a man allegedly involved in last month's assassination of the head of one of the city's security agencies, National Security chief Col. Farag el-Dersi. The unknown assailants attacked the security compound, in an apparent attempt to break into a nearby detention center where the suspect in el-Dersi's killing is being held.

Fidel Castro nominated for Cuban parliament seat

HAVANA (AP)—Retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro has been nominated for a seat in the country's parliament, authorities said Sunday. The afternoon TV news announced "the leader

of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz heads the list of 25 candidates to the Cuban parliament from the municipality of Santiago de Cuba, approved by the delegates of this state body." Castro was also named as a delegate in 2008, when he officially retired as president. It's unclear whether he has played an active role in legislative duties in the years since.

Chavez allies sweep Venezuela gubernatorial vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Allies of President Hugo Chavez won a sweeping victory in the country's gubernatorial elections Sunday, capturing at least 19 of 23 states, the country's electoral chief said. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles held on for a re-election win in Miranda state, one of three opposition candidates who had won according to the preliminary results. Going into the vote, the opposition had held the governorships in eight states, and it lost in five of those states according to the results announced by National Electoral Council President Tibisay Lucena.

Focus

CAIRO (AP)—Nevine Mustafa finally had enough after 10 hours of waiting to cast her “no” vote in Egypt’s referendum on a highly disputed draft constitution. She and the other women in line were convinced the judge running the polling station was deliberately stalling to drive away voters opposed to the document.

So the 39-year-old housewife and dozens of other women launched a protest, blocking the street and chanting against the judge in an upper class district of Alexandria, Egypt’s second largest city.

“The line was not moving since 8 a.m. I protest. It is now 7 p.m.,” an agitated Mustafa said at the time. “He wants us to get bored and leave.” After their protest, new officials were brought in to speed up the process.

The scene was a reflection of the deep distrust of Egypt’s ruling Islamists and their management of a referendum on a draft constitution that they largely wrote. Questions raised Sunday over the referendum’s legitimacy suggest the confrontation between Islamists and their secular, liberal and Christian opponents will not be resolved by the long-awaited vote.

As Islamist President Mohammed Morsi rushed the referendum despite high pitched opposition, the dispute over the charter has turned into a fight over the Islamists’ hold on power, and the ballot has become a yes or no vote on the president himself.

Rights activists and opponents of the constitution said Sunday that the first round of voting a day earlier was marred by widespread violations, including suppression of voting by opponents of the charter, particularly women, Christians. A coalition of rights groups said the first round was invalid and should be held over again.

That appeared highly unlikely. The Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, said the constitution was on route to approval.

But the margin from the first round of voting, which took place in 10 of Egypt’s 27 provinces, was narrow—and turnout low, at only 32 percent.

Preliminary results showed 55.8 percent backed the draft, according to the Brotherhood. Its count was based on a compilation of results announced at each individual polling station. In past elections, the Brotherhood’s counts have proven largely accurate.

The strongest “no” vote was in Cairo, with 68 percent, according to the official website of Egypt’s state television. The “yes” vote narrowly carried Egypt’s second largest city, Alexandria, with nearly 56 percent.

The head of the referendum commission said the official results will be announced after the second and last round, scheduled for next Saturday. It was an indication that reports of violations will not stop the process, at least at this stage. Islamists enjoy wide support in most of the 17 provinces in the second round.

The claims of violations are likely to further stoke tensions ahead of the second round, as each camp works to mobilize a population that largely opted to stay on the sidelines of the rivalry.

Over the past three weeks, hundreds of thousands from both camps have held rival protests in the streets that sparked violence leaving at least 9 people dead.

Brotherhood spokesman Mahmoud Ghazlan dismissed the rights groups’ allegations as politically motivated to sway public opinion.

“These organizations are funded by Western countries. Just like the Westerners hate the Islamists, so do these groups. They are seculars and they hate the Islamists and have foreign agendas,” Ghazlan said.

Despite worries over the vote’s fairness, voters “should do down in big numbers to say no,” a member of the main opposition National Salvation Front, Abdel-Ghaffar Shukr, told a press conference. The group called for new protests Tuesday.

Many voters who backed the charter argue that men who fear God have written the text, and it must be given a chance. But the women’s protest during Saturday’s voting in Alexandria’s Rushdi neighborhood reflected anger over what they view as the Brotherhood’s domineering way of ruling. Scores of women blocked traffic, chanting, “Down with the rule of the Brotherhood leader.”

A young man with a light beard—which the women took as a sign he was a Brotherhood member—tried to break up the protest, telling the women they were obstructing traffic, said Mustafa, who herself wears a conservative headscarf.

“So we shouted: Down with Morsi,” she said.

The women contended the judge running the station was trying to suppress voting in the district, known to be a stronghold of “no” voters. He repeatedly closed the station for long breaks to pray, talk on the phone, or eat, said Nada Abdel-Azim, a 23-year old who was among the protesters.

“He even asked one voter what she voted,” she said. When told “no,” he shut down for another break, she said.

“The country is split into two. We too are Muslims. Why are they labeling us infidels” for rejecting the charter, said Abdel-Azim, a teacher.

Standing in the same line, Mervat Ahmed, a 42-year woman wearing a veil that left only her eyes visible—a sign of the most conservative Muslims—got angry when an acquaintance called her to urge her to vote “yes.”

“No, don’t tell me this. I am still voting no,” she shouted into the phone. Explaining herself, she said: “I am not convinced by this constitution. The president has great powers. I don’t want to wait more years to try to strip him of this power. We will not be able to by that time.”

By the end of the day, only 2,873 of the 6,500 women registered in Rushdi district were able to vote. The “no” vote

Mistrust runs deep over Egypt referendum

Battle for power in Egypt

Since February 2011 when longtime Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak was toppled, the creation of a new government in Egypt has seen a dramatic struggle unfold at almost every turn.

The presidency

Although Mohammed Morsi was elected president in June, since then his efforts to establish and use his power have prompted massive protests; the Muslim Brotherhood party he represents was the main party resisting Mubarak

May 10 Morsi not included in televised debate because he is in third or fourth place

May 25 Initial presidential vote puts Morsi in a runoff with Ahmed Shafiq, a former Mubarak prime minister and retired air force general

June 16-17 Runoff elections held, after which Morsi claims victory

June 24 Egypt’s national elections commission announces Morsi’s victory; “I am the president of all of Egypt,” Morsi says, while resigning from the Muslim Brotherhood

June 30 Morsi sworn in; “The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has kept its word and fulfilled its promise; the elected institutions will come back to take their role, and the Egyptian armed forces, Egypt’s great army, will return to protecting the borders of the country,” he says

Aug. 2 Morsi swears in 35-member cabinet, including ministers held over from the interim military government



◀ Mohammed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood’s candidate for president of Egypt

Aug. 12 Top military leaders are dismissed by Morsi in a move that essentially gives him control over the executive and legislative branches of government

Oct. 13 Morsi backs off decision to replace prosecutor general after protests from judges and lawyers

Nov. 22 Morsi makes a decree that weakens the court and frees him from judicial oversight, sparking demonstrations of support and protest

Nov. 24 Judges threaten a nationwide strike and demand Morsi reverse his decree

Nov. 26 Morsi meets with judges and suggests he will scale back proposal

Dec. 4 Protesters march on presidential palace against Morsi’s expanded powers

Dec. 9 Morsi rescinds most of decree giving him immunity from judicial oversight but vows to keep constitution referendum

The legislature and constitution

The battle to determine who controls the drafting of a new constitution as well as lawmaking and budget power pits the Muslim Brotherhood versus the military and other forces pressing for a more democratic system

June 14 Egypt’s highest court dissolves parliament, putting the constitution-writing process in doubt

June 17 Supreme Council of the Armed Forces decrees it has the right to form Egypt’s legislature, write the constitution and control the budget

June 19 Muslim Brotherhood leads thousands of protesters in Cairo’s Tahrir Square against military council’s decree

July 8 Morsi issues a decree for parliament to reconvene; the military challenges it in court

July 10 Parliament, led by Muslim Brotherhood, meets despite court order

Aug. 15 Court hears military’s challenge to Morsi and the assembly



▲ President-elect Mohammed Morsi of Egypt addressed tens of thousands of supporters in Tahrir Square

Oct. 10 Draft of constitution, created by parliament, unveiled for public review; draft states that Egypt is “a democratic regime” guided by the principles of Shariah, or Islamic law

Oct. 23 Challenge to parliament is referred to Supreme Constitutional Court

Nov. 30 Parliament approves draft of constitution

Dec. 1 Morsi says a referendum on the new constitution will be held Dec. 15

Dec. 2 The Supreme Constitutional Court suspends indefinitely its ruling on the constitutionality of the assembly as thousands of Morsi supporters rally in front of the court building; it agreed the next day to oversee the vote

Dec. 6 Morsi offers talks but vows to keep constitution vote

Dec. 12 Government lays out constitution vote in two steps, one Dec. 15 and the next Dec. 22

Source: Foreign Assistance Dashboard, news reports, Tribune reporting

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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wait to vote.

She said she was voting “no” “to clear my conscience, but she expected the “yes” to win. “It is a joke. I don’t trust them,” she said.

Most of the country’s judges, who normally supervise elections, boycotted the referendum. Opposition voters accused the judges who did participate of being biased, saying some influenced people to vote “yes.” Other voters Saturday also reported suspected Brotherhood members inside polling stations urging people to vote in favor of the charter.

Some judges, in turn, complained that they were overburdened because of the boycott, causing long waits.

Ghazlan alleged the opposition had also committed voting violations, such campaigning in stations against the charter. He said his group will file its own complaints to the referendum commission.

For Islamists, the constitution is the keystone for their ambitions to bring Islamic rule, a goal they say is justified by their large victory in last winter’s parliamentary elections.

The opposition had demanded Morsi cancel the referendum because the draft was passed by Islamists in the Constituent Assembly amid a boycott by secular, liberal and Christian members. For opponents, the draft threatens the notion of moderate Islam Egypt had adopted for decades. They fear it will torpedo many freedoms, from the rights of women and minorities to freedoms of expression and labor organizing.

At a press conference Sunday, representatives of seven rights groups denounced the vote, saying it was carried out without sufficient guarantees of fairness. They said they had reports some polling centers closed earlier than scheduled and that in some cases Christians were denied entry to polls and women were prevented from voting. They said they had reports of individuals falsely identifying themselves as judges.

Negad Borai, the head of one of the groups, said the election commission did not investigate thousands of complaints on alleged violations and irregularities.

On his Twitter account, Mohamed ElBaradei, Egypt’s best known reform leader, questioned whether a vote held “under insufficient judicial supervision, clearly tenuous security and the violence and violations we are witnessing” could lead to stability.

The National Council for Human Rights, a state agency, also said that vote-buying took place outside polling centers and that some independent monitors were turned away from polling stations.

While the charges are serious, they don’t touch the wholesale vote fraud that defined Mubarak’s 29-year rule.

In Alexandria’s middle-class el-Shatbi neighborhood, a group of women complained that their ballots were not stamped, raising concerns that the votes wouldn’t be counted.

Habiba el-Sayed, a 49-year-old housewife, screamed at the line as she walked out of the station, urging other women to ensure that their ballots were stamped.

“For two hours, people voted without stamped ballots. Beware,” she screamed.

overwhelmingly carried the neighborhood, with only 552 “yes” votes.

Amina Fouad, a 43-year-old self-employed businesswoman, said the

district’s turnout seemed higher to her. She and her daughter passed by the station four times waiting for the line to die down before finally deciding to

Overdrive

Ford C-Max Energi brings fun to hybrid segment

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Hybrids look right at home parked outside frilly townhouses in San Francisco, ready to save the world from SUVs and Republicans.

After all, Leonardo what's-his-name and lots of very important blond actresses in Hollywood sometimes drive the stolid little sparkies, stepping stylishly from them for their weekly People portraits.

But it's really hard to imagine one sailing gleefully along at 85 mph, wearing a wicked late-night grin.

Let's be brutally blunt here, kids: Most hybrids are about as much fun as a libertarian sock-hop.

I'm just glad Ford didn't get the email.

Ford already builds several credible hybrids, including a well-received version of the Fusion sedan.

For some reason, the company—which still relies heavily on big, hairy-chested pickups—decided to go even further, sending us the wonderfully odd 2013 C-Max Energi, a plug-in hybrid station wagon/crossover thing.

Let me interpret some of that for you: The C-Max is based on Ford's highly European Focus platform and is kind of a cross between a tall minivan and a Euro station wagon.

As I'm sure you've read, plug-in hybrids start with a conventional gas-electric hybrid powertrain—in this case, a two-liter, four-cylinder engine tied to an electric motor.

Plug-in hybrids get a stouter battery pack so you can drive them in fully electric mode for a relatively short distance.

That supposedly equates to 20 or so miles at speeds up to 75 mph in the C-Max.

Once the juice is gone, the C-Max reverts to a conventional hybrid that's able to speed along until it runs out of gas—though you'll have to recharge the battery if you want to buzz around in all-electric mode again.

I suggest you save that mode for fer-



FORD/MCT

The 2013 Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid has a more robust battery than the regular C-Max hybrid. Inset, at the touch the EV mode button, Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid drivers can switch to electric-only power up to 85 mph.

rying old hippies and Democrats in the inner city, and rely mostly on the C-Max's lively 188-horsepower gas and electric motors, rated at 44 miles per gallon in the city.

You won't feel deprived. When I got my first look at the tall, somewhat thick C-Max, I thought "pig that plows."

At about 64 inches, my silver C-Max was too tall for me to see over easily—sadly.

Up front, the \$33,745 C-Max wore a Focus front end with a single-bar grille up high and a toothier six-bar grille beneath it.

Unlike the homely Toyota Prius, it rolled on real wheels and tires—225/50 tires on turbine-style 17-inch wheels, which helped offset some of its body bulk.

A short, raised hood and enormous

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Ford C-Max Energi

- **Type of vehicle:** Five-passenger, five-door, front-wheel-drive wagon/crossover
- **Price as tested:** No window sticker, but it has a base price of \$32,950
- **Fuel economy:** 44 miles per gallon city, 41 mpg highway
- **Weight:** About 3,900 pounds
- **Engine:** Two-liter, four-cylinder gas engine coupled to a permanent-magnet AC synchronous electric motor, producing a total of 188 horsepower
- **Performance:** 0 to 60 mph in 9 seconds
- **Safety rating:** Unrated

swept-back headlamps flowed crisply into a huge, dramatically raked windshield. Four big doors framed windows that might fit in a Greyhound bus, providing fine visibility.

They opened onto a black interior with immense leg- and headroom—though the vehicle's specialized electronics consumed a portion of the cargo space behind the rear seats.

If you like highly contemporary style, you'll appreciate this environment. A stylized black hood over the instrument panel rolled into a larger hood over a prominent center stack with a 5-by-7-inch navigation screen up high.

It was flanked by large climate-control vents and slid down into a sleek silver plastic console with a rally-style shifter for the C-Max's continuously variable transmission.

Best of all, the steering wheel and seats were wrapped in smooth black leather, with the rich-looking seats providing reasonably good support.

The seating position was almost as upright as in a minivan. And like all Citizen Skippy hybrids, the C-Max started silently, with a lighted instrument panel the only clue that things were percolating beneath the hood and floor.

At 3,900 pounds, the C-Max seemed too porky to be perky. But its electric motor gave it a good shove away from stops, whirring to 30 mph or so under my heavy foot before the gas engine stepped in to do the real lifting.

And once the gas engine awakened, it responded enthusiastically to prods, emitting healthy four-cylinder sounds as it accelerated to 60 in 9 seconds flat, according to Car and Driver.

That is seven-tenths of a second quicker than the Prius or Nissan Leaf, and it ties President Greenjeans' favorite sparker, the Chevrolet Volt.

Although its CVT droned under long acceleration runs, it was programmed to kick down into a passing "gear" of sorts, giving a nice little lunge when you needed a burst of power.

Even better, the C-Max offered quick and fairly lively steering—a rarity in a front-wheel-drive hybrid—that helped give the thing pretty aggressive turn-in.

Though it leaned initially, the C-Max firmed up some as it moved pretty crisply through moderate-speed curves, encouraging some slightly irresponsible drivers to flog it a bit.

I kind of enjoyed it, and I rarely say that about any mainstream hybrid.

But unlike me, hybrids continue to progress.

At some point in the near future, I bet we'll be driving lightweight vehicles with clean, torquey diesel engines tied to highly efficient electric motors—those of us who aren't still banging around in old outlaw V-8-powered cars.

And maybe hybrids will finally be more than political symbols then.

Murano runs rough; dealer puzzled

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)



QUESTION: We have a 2003 Nissan Murano with 102,000 miles that we purchased new. Three times in the past year the car suddenly started running extremely rough. The engine jerked and bucked for 5 to 10 minutes. While this was happening, the "service engine soon" light was blinking on and off, but it has never once recorded or stored a fault code. Each time this happened, we pulled over, turned the car off and let it sit for a few minutes. When we restarted the car, it ran just fine again.

The first time this happened, the dealership ran a diagnostic but couldn't find anything. They recommended the 90,000-mile scheduled maintenance, which included new plugs, wires and a

tuneup. I did this and thought the problem was solved. But it has happened two more times since then. Without a specific fault code, I really hate to take it to the dealership and have them start replacing parts in attempt to find the problem.

ANSWER: Typically, the flashing "check engine/service engine soon" light points toward multiple misfires and a significant amount of excess unburned fuel reaching the catalytic converter—enough to potentially damage the converter. With no fault codes stored, start with a back-pressure test of the exhaust system to determine if the converter may be clogged or the exhaust system restricted. This test involves removing the front oxygen sensor, installing a pressure gauge and running the engine. More than about 2 pounds per square inch back-pressure could indicate some type of restriction.

The intermittent nature of your misfire might also point to a possible ignition problem. Since you had new plugs and wires installed, the coil packs may be suspect. Also, my Alldata database pulled up a Nissan recall in 2003 that called for upgraded crankshaft and camshaft position sensors in certain Nissan engines from that year. It might be worth checking with the dealership to see if your vehicle was included and whether the updated parts have been installed.

Q: A lot of water got in my 1998 GMC Jimmy's gas tank. I drained the tank and pumped out the water. It will run if I pour gas in the throttle body but quits when I stop pouring gas in. It will not stay running.

A: Can you hear the fuel pump run for 2 seconds when you first turn the key to the "on" position before cranking the engine? If not, check its relay.

Also, look for a green unconnected wire near the driver's side inner fender that is used to prime the fuel injection at the factory. It's possible to apply battery voltage to this wire—make sure you identify the correct wire!—to test-operate the fuel pump. And, finally, debris may be clogging the sock filter on the fuel pickup inside the tank.

Q: It may be a bit late in the year to ask this, but I have a couple of cars that sit outside all winter and I cringe when heavy weather rolls in. Are there any car covers available that actually protect your car from hail damage?

A: This is sort of a good news/bad news question. A car cover made of heavy fabric or plastic might protect from hail damage, but would potentially damage the finish from abrasion.

For decades I've parked cars outside and intentionally left them un-

covered. Maybe I've just been lucky, but I've never had any damage from rain, snow or hail.

The "garage in a box" concept—a light metal framework with a vinyl covering and zip-up "door"—would protect the vehicle from hail and heavy storms. These are portable garages, so to speak, and typically sell at home improvement stores for less than \$500. The heavier metal framed steel-roofed garages are somewhat more expensive but obviously more protective and durable and would be a better choice for more permanent outside storage.

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

Springsteen, Gaga join Stones; Newtown noted

NEW YORK (AP)—Only at a Rolling Stones concert could appearances by Bruce Springsteen and Lady Gaga seem almost like afterthoughts.

Those superstars and other top acts including the Black Keys and John Mayer jammed with the Stones on Saturday night, winding down a series of concerts celebrating the 50th year of rock's most enduring band (the occasion was also marked by a pay-per-view special).

The Boss rocked out with the band on out "Tumbling Dice"; Gaga matched Mick Jagger shimmy-for-shimmy on "Gimme Shelter"; the Black Keys joined on "Who Do You Love," and John Mayer and Gary Clark Jr. showed their considerable guitar chops alongside Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood on "Goin' Down."

But the Stones would not be upstaged. While the sold-out crowd roared with each special guest, it was the aging but dynamic foursome that generated the most excitement of the night, as they put new energy into their decades-old catalog of hits, including "It's Only Rock 'N Roll (But I Like It)," "Start Me Up," "Brown Sugar," "Sympathy for the Devil" and more.

The band took a moment to acknowledge the shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults at an elementary school Friday in Newtown, Conn. "We just wanted to send our love and condolences to all the people who lost loved ones in the tragedy in Connecti-

cut," Jagger early on in the concert as the audience applauded. Jagger noted the entire world was feeling the pain of the stunned nation.

But it was the only somber moment in an frenetic show that showed why the Stones are considered by many to be the greatest rock band, and belied the much-discussed advanced age of the group's lineup (their ages range between 65 and 71).

Jagger himself poked fun at the senior citizen status of the band and their fans; speaking of the pay-per-view crowd at home, he joked: "Some of you have got your grandchildren watching you."

But few acts in their so-called prime would have been able to match the energy the Stones radiated onstage. The group had the crowd on its feet for the entire show as Jagger gyrated across the stage, his voice in top form. Both Wood and Richards dazzled on guitar (Richards got a raucous, sustained ovation as he took over vocals on two songs). And Charlie Watts kept the beat strong on the drums.

Before performing in London together late last month for the first of the concerts, the Stones hadn't performed in concert together since 2007. Going into these shows, there was some speculation that Saturday's concert, held at the Prudential Center, might be their last.



Musician Bruce Springsteen, center left, performs with, from left, Ronnie Wood, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012. AP

Earlier in the evening, Jagger teased that the concert might signal the end: "This could be the last time; I don't know," he said. But by the end of the evening, it seemed clear that the question was not when the Stones would return, but when.

"This is the last show of our anniversary tour, and we hope to see you all again soon," Jagger said.

Perhaps the night's most special guest was Mick Taylor, the former Stones guitarist who was part of some of their big-

gest moments from 1969 to 1975, when he left the group. He rejoined his band mates (and the man who replaced him, Wood) onstage for a powerful performance of "Midnight Rambler".

At the concert's end, while other special guests gave their final bows and left the stage, Jagger motioned for Taylor to stay, and the five took their final bow together.

Depardieu wants to surrender French passport

PARIS (AP)—Gerard Depardieu, one of France's best-known actors, has chastised his country's Socialist prime minister for insulting remarks over his decision to move to tax-friendly Belgium and said in an open letter published Sunday that he's turning in his passport.

The letter, which the weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche* said was penned by Depardieu, quickly propelled him into the spotlight, not for his acclaimed acting skills but for raising the sensitive issue of tax exiles as France looks to fill state coffers with a stiff tax on the rich.

"We no longer have the same country. I'm a true European, a citizen of the world," Depardieu wrote in the letter. He said his 2012 tax bill—85 percent of his revenue—is fully paid.

Depardieu, who turns 64 this month, said he has worked since the age of 14, first as a printer, and that in last 45 years he has paid €145 million (\$190 million) in taxes.

"I hand over my passport to you and my social security card, which I have never used," the letter said, referring to Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

Last week, Ayrault called Depardieu "pathetic" and "unpatriotic" for the actor's decision to move to Nechin, a Belgian village barely a mile (1.6 kilometers) across the border from Lille in northern France. Nechin has drawn other high-earning French residents.

The letter drew quick reaction but little sympathy.

Culture Minister Aurelie Filippetti said she was "scandalized" by Depardieu's decision to turn in his passport. "French citizenship, it's an honor," she said on BFM-TV. "It is rights and duties, too, among them to be able to pay taxes."

President Francois Hollande plans to

levy a 75 percent tax on revenue over €1 million to reduce France's budget deficit and debt, and Filippetti said, "Gerard Depardieu is deserting the battle in the war against the crisis."

David Assouline, a spokesman for the governing Socialist Party, said of the actor: "He's playing his worst role."

But Depardieu said in the letter that he is leaving his country because the government "considers that success, creation, talent ... should be sanctioned."

Others have crossed the border before Depardieu, notably the man billed as France's richest, Bernard Arnault, chief of the luxury goods and fashion giant LVMH and worth an estimated \$41 billion. He is seeking Belgian citizenship.

It's unclear whether Depardieu realizes his proclamation may in the end just be a symbolic gesture because it's hard to stop being a French citizen. The Civil Code says one must have another nationality in order to give up French citizenship because it is forbidden to be stateless.

Depardieu's burly presence is well-known in France.

He has made more than 150 films and is internationally acclaimed, including an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of Cyrano de Bergerac in the 1990 film by the same name.

In an upcoming movie to be directed by Abel Ferrara, Depardieu will portray former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who fell from power on claims by a New York hotel maid of sexual assault. Charges were dropped and a civil settlement was reached.

A French case that Strauss-Kahn seeks to dismiss is pending.

Jason Mraz tops Myanmar anti-trafficking concert

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—American singer-songwriter Jason Mraz mixed entertainment with education to become the first world-class entertainer in decades to perform in Myanmar, with a concert to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Mraz's 2008 hit "I'm Yours" was the finale for Sunday night's concert before a crowd of about 50,000 people at the base of the famous hilltop Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, the country's biggest city.

Local artists, including a hip-hop singer, also played at the event organized by MTV in cooperation with U.S. and Australian government aid agencies and the anti-slavery organization Walk Free.

Myanmar is emerging from decades of isolation under a reformist elected government that took office last year after almost five decades of military rule. It has been one of the region's poorest countries, and its bad human rights record made it the target of political and economic sanctions by Western nations.

But democratic reforms initiated by President Thein Sein have led to the lifting of most sanctions, and the country is hopeful of a political and economic revival. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy opposition leader, was released from house arrest in late 2010 and won a seat in parliament last April.

Mraz called his top-billed appear-



Mraz

ance at the concert a "tremendous honor."

"I think the country is, at this time, downloading lots of new information from all around the world," he said. "I've always wanted my music to be here, (for) hope and celebration, peace, love and happiness. And so I'm delighted that my music can be a part of this big download that Myanmar is experiencing right now."

Organizers said Mraz was the first international artist to perform at an open-air, mass public concert in Myanmar. Jazz artists Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Charlie Byrd visited the country under U.S. government sponsorship in the 1970s, when it was still called Burma, but played at much smaller venues.

Many in the crowd queued for two hours before being admitted to the concert site. Yangon native Sann Oo, 31, wearing a white T-shirt with a sketch of Mraz, said he was pleased that Mraz had come and that there would be a broadcast of the event.

"His visit can promote the image of Myanmar, because people outside have been seeing the country as an insecure place, and poor," he said. "Now they can see how we look like from the concert. It also opens the potential for more concerts by foreign artists."

eign artists."

Mraz has a history of involvement with human rights and other social causes.

But there was some criticism of his visit by campaigners for Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya community, which has been the target of ethnic-based violence this year that has forced scores of thousands of people from their homes into makeshift refugees camps. They feel Myanmar's government has been complicit in the discrimination, and that Mraz's visit provides it cover with the image of being a defender of human rights.

Walk Free used the occasion of Sunday's concert to launch a campaign calling on the world's major corporations "to work together to end modern slavery by identifying, eradicating and preventing forced labor in their operations and supply chains." They are seeking to have the companies make a "zero tolerance for slavery pledge" by the end of March next year.

"While many think of slavery as a relic of history, experts estimate that there are currently 20.9 million people living under threat of violence, abuse and harsh penalties," the Australia-based group said in a statement. "Within this massive number, the majority of people—more than 14.2 million—are in a forced labor situation, used to source raw materials, and create products in sectors such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing and domestic work."

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The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday		4:20	7:45	10:10
Saturday	12:55	4:20	7:45	10:10
Sunday	12:55	4:20	7:45	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:45	

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The creative team behind the Lord of the Rings trilogy returns to Middle-earth with this adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic precursor -The Hobbit. Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh share writing duties with Guillermo del Toro on the Warner Bros./MGM joint production, the story of which will span two films.



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Friday		4:10	7:35	10:00
Saturday	12:45	4:10	7:35	10:00
Sunday	12:45	4:10	7:35	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:35	

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Playing for Keeps

Friday		4:15	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:15	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:15	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:20	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13



Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday		7:30	10:55
Saturday	1:30	7:30	10:55
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Life of Pi 3D

Friday		7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday	4:05
Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday	4:30
Saturday	4:30
Sunday	4:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

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This publicity film image released by Warner Bros., shows, from left: Dean O'Gorman as Fili; Aidan Turner as Kili; Mark Hadlow as Dori; Jed Brophy as Nori; and William Kircher as Bifur, in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

'Hobbit' bests 'Rings' with \$84.8M opening

NEW YORK (AP)—Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" led the box office with a haul of \$84.8 million, a record-setting opening better than the three previous "Lord of the Rings" films.

The Warner Bros. Middle Earth epic was the biggest December opening ever, surpassing Will Smith's "I Am Legend," which opened with \$77.2 million in 2007, according to studio estimates Sunday. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" also passed the December opening of "Avatar," which opened with \$77 million. Internationally, "The Hobbit" also added \$138.2 million, for an impressive debut well north of \$200 million.

Despite weak reviews, the 3-D adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's first novel in the fantasy series was an even bigger draw than the last "Lord of the Rings" movie, "The Return of the King." That film opened with \$72.6 million. "The Hobbit" is the first of another planned trilogy, with two more films to be squeezed out of Tolkien's book.

While Jackson's "Rings" movies drew many accolades—"The Return of the King" won best picture from the Academy Awards—the path for "The Hobbit" has been rockier. Particularly criticized has been the film's 48-frames-per-second (double the usual rate), a hyper-detailed look that some have found jarring. Most moviegoers didn't see "The Hobbit" in that version, though, as the new technology was rolled out in only 461 of the 4,045 theaters playing the film.

Regardless of any misgivings over "The Hobbit," the film was a hit with audiences. They graded the film with an "A" CinemaScore.

"What's really important, what makes this special is the CinemaScore," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "All these things point to a great word of mouth. We haven't even made it to the Christmas holidays yet. Kids are still in school this week."

The strong opening culmi-

1. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," \$84.8 million (\$138.2 million international).
2. "Rise of the Guardians," \$7.4 million (\$20.1 million international).
3. "Lincoln," \$7.2 million.
4. "Skyfall," \$7 million (\$12.2 million international).
5. "Life of Pi," \$5.4 million (\$11.5 million international).
6. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2," \$5.2 million (\$13 million international).
7. "Wreck-It Ralph," \$3.3 million (\$4.7 million international).
8. "Playing for Keeps," \$3.2 million (\$1.4 million international).
9. "Red Dawn," \$2.4 million.
10. "Silver Linings Playbook," \$2 million (\$370,000 international).

nated a long journey for "The Hobbit," which was initially de-

layed when a lawsuit dragged on between Jackson and "Rings" producer New Line Cinema over merchandising revenue. At one point, Guillermo del Toro was to direct the film with Jackson producing. But eventually the filmmaker opted to direct the movie himself, originally envisioning two "Hobbit" films. The production also went through the bankruptcy of distribution partner MGM and a labor dispute in New Zealand, where the film was shot.

The long delay for "The Hobbit," nearly a decade after the last "Lord of the Rings" film, made it "one of those movies that had everyone scratching their heads as to how it would open," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It's been a decade since the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy concluded," said Dergarabedian. "There's been so much anticipation for this film and having Peter Jackson back at the helm just made it irresistible both to fans and the non-initiated alike."

From 'Sherlock' to 'Star Trek' for Cumberbatch

By HILARY FOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Benedict Cumberbatch has had a busy 24 hours.

The British actor was nominated for a Golden Globe, chased by the paparazzi in London and unveiled the first nine minutes of the new "Star Trek" movie Friday.

At a special IMAX presentation of the footage in London, Cumberbatch's menacing character John Harrison was introduced at the beginning of the much-anticipated "Star Trek Into Darkness."

The sequel kicks off at a fast pace, with Captain Kirk's trademark quips, a volcano erupting and Spock in grave danger during a mission to save a planet.

Cumberbatch was not allowed to reveal much about the plot, but the 36-year-old did admit that he auditioned for the role of

Harrison—who he describes as "a phenomenal one-man weapon of mass destruction"—on an iPhone in his friend's kitchen.

Fans wanting to see the footage can catch it in front of selected IMAX 3D screenings worldwide of "The Hobbit," beginning Friday.

"Star Trek Into Darkness," directed by J.J. Abrams, opens next May.

The Associated Press spoke to the "Sherlock" star Friday after the presentation.

AP: "How did it feel coming here and seeing your face so big on that screen?"

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: "I always get incredibly nervous, especially on an empty stomach having only had a macchiato. It makes your heart beat a lot faster and I don't like it. I look away when it's me, I don't

like being my own audience. It's very weird. ... You probably saw my nostril hairs, counted how many pores I've got on my nose and which one of my teeth is wonky."

AP: "It's obviously in the great tradition of having an English baddie."

CUMBERBATCH: "I'm following in the very hallowed footsteps of (Jeremy) Irons, (Alan) Rick-

man and Tom Hiddleston, my great friend in this summer's "Avengers." There are a few of us who have done it before, it stretches back as old as time. They get excited about these actors with theatre training who can do stuff. It's hugely flattering but you're not going to see me do a whole raft of villains after this."

AP: "Congratulations on the Golden Globe nomination (best

actor in a miniseries for "Sherlock"). Did you celebrate?"

CUMBERBATCH: "I went out with my niece, who is my PA (personal assistant) Emily, and we got papped (followed by paparazzi) to the point that I couldn't actually see and I had to put my head down and just blink a couple of times. I was trying to get in the car with her and so immediately they presume, 'ah, beautiful blonde.' Poor girl, she's never experienced that before—I've never experienced that—like 15 of them hanging off the bonnet of the car."

AP: "Surely it's only going to get worse after this 'Star Trek' film?"

CUMBERBATCH: "I hope not. I don't court it. I think you have to be in certain places at certain times. Of course, promoting a film you're out in the public and I'm proud to do that for the work I've done. But I'm quite a private person at heart."



Cumberbatch

A children's choir opens 'SNL' with 'Silent Night'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" made a rare departure from its comedic opening to pay tribute to the children and adults killed at a Connecticut elementary school.

Not known for treating anything seriously or tenderly, the show made a fitting exception during the first moments of its show Saturday. Rather than the usual comedic sketch, a children's choir appeared on camera and angelically sang "Silent Night," with the touching refrain, "Sleep in heavenly peace."

Then the members of the New York City Children's Chorus shouted out the NBC show's time-honored introduction: "Live from New York, it's 'Saturday Night!'"

It was the night's sole reference to the tragedy and struck just the right tone.

Later, the chorus returned to join musical guest Paul McCartney in a rendition of his "Wonderful Christmas Time."

Appearing in a sketch in an unbilled cameo, actor Samuel L. Jackson made a distinctive contribution of his own.

Pretending to be miffed at getting interrupted as a guest on the mock talk show "What Up with That?" Jackson said what sounded very much like an obscenity, followed by another term usually blipped out from live TV broadcasts.

Playing the host of "What Up with That?" Kenan Thompson looked startled by Jackson's vulgarities but kept going.

"C'mon, Sam. That costs money!" he quipped, cracking up the studio audience, by referring to possible fines for airing obscenities.

Moments after the show ended, Jackson tried to explain in a Twitter posting.

"I only said FUH," he insisted, adding that Thompson was supposed to cut him off with his second eruption, but "blew it!"

Jackson's tweet was accompanied by a photo of himself looking mortified.

Besides Jackson, some of the stars dropping by for this special Christmas "SNL" included Alec Baldwin, Tom Hanks, Kristen Wiig, Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey. The guest host was Martin Short.

Kate Middleton attends UK sports awards show

In this Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012 file photo, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge visits the Kranji Commonwealth War Memorial in Singapore. **AP**



LONDON (AP)—The pregnant Duchess of Cambridge made her first public appearance Sunday night since her hospitalization for acute morning sickness.

Looking healthy and strong, the former Kate Middleton presented awards at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year prizes, which were broadcast throughout Britain.

She wore a dark green outfit and seemed composed and comfortable, showing no signs of the acute morning sickness that had led to her recent hospitalization.

She had not been seen in public since leaving King Edward VII Hospital in London on Dec. 6. At the time, officials said the duchess would be resting.

At the conclusion of the gala show, she presented the lifetime achievement award to Sebastian Coe, the newly elected chairman of the British Olympic Association and a two-time Olympic middle-distance champion, and the sports personality of the year award, won by Tour de France and Olympic champion Bradley Wiggins.

Palace officials have said the Duchess is in the first 12 weeks of her pregnancy. It would be the first child for her and her husband, Prince William.

It was also her first public appearance since the apparent suicide of a nurse at King Edward VII Hospital who was the victim of a prank call by two DJs from an Australian radio show. She and William have said they were deeply saddened by the nurse's death.

Switzerland sends Salvation Army to Eurovision gig

GENEVA (AP)—Switzerland is putting its faith in the Salvation Army to win the Eurovision Song Contest when it is staged in Malmo, Sweden, next year.

Television viewers chose one of the Christian missionary group's Swiss chapters, whose bass player is 94 years old, from among five national finalists late Saturday.

The Eurovision contest is a kitschy fixture on the European cultural calendar watched by more than 100 million people across the world.

Viewers and juries pick the winner from an eclectic mix of bubblegum pop and rock acts representing each European country.

Political songs are forbidden and Swiss media have speculated that the Salvation Army's Christian aims might still fall afoul of the rules.

Switzerland hasn't won the contest since Canadian singer Celine Dion represented the country in 1988.

Beck looks for new connection with 'Song Reader'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Beck Hansen wants you to think about the way music has changed over the last century and what that means about how human beings engage each other these days.

Laboring over the intricate and ornate details of his new "Song Reader" sheet music project, he was struck by how social music used to be—something we've lost in the age of ear buds.

"You watch an old film and see how people would dance together in the '20s, '30s and '40s. You'd go out and people would switch partners and it was a way of social interaction," Hansen said. "It's something that was part of what brought people together. Play-

ing music in the home is another aspect of that that's been lost. Again, I'm not on a campaign to get people to take up songs and play music in their home or anything. But it is interesting to me, the loss of that, what it means."

Beck hopes the "Song Reader" inspires some of us to pick up instruments and limber our vocal cords. It includes 20 songs annotated on sheet music that's been decorated in the style popular in the early 20th century when the songwriting industry was a thriving enterprise with billions of songs sold.

The 42-year-old singer notes in the book's preface that Bing Crosby's "Sweet Leilani" sold

an estimated 54 million copies in 1937, meaning about 40 percent or more of the U.S. population was engaged in learning how to play that song. They were touching it directly, speeding it up, slowing it down, changing the lyrics and creating something new.

"There's popular bands now that people know the words to their songs and can sing along, but there's something about playing a song for yourself or for your friends and family that allows you to inhabit the song and by some sort of osmosis

it becomes part of who you are in a way," he said. "So when I think of my great-grandparents' generations, music defined their lives in a different way than it does now."

Beck proposed the idea to McSweeney's Dave Eggers in 2004 and it soon blossomed into something more ambitious as the artist wrapped his mind around the challenge of not just writing a song, but presenting it in a classic way that also engages fans who might not be able to read music or play their own instruments.



Beck

Woman looking ahead wants boyfriend to adopt her view

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 and have been with my boyfriend, "Griffin," for five years. He recently gave me a beautiful promise ring. I would like to spend the rest of my life with him, but I think I have a problem.



Dear Abby

I am going to become an adoption professional, and I plan on adopting one day. Griffin knows I'm pursuing this career and that I want to adopt, but I don't think he understands how serious I am about it. We don't plan on being married until after college, when we'll both be 25.

How do I let him know I'm serious about this? I don't want to wait five more years and find he's not on the same page and that I wasted my time. When I try to discuss it, Griffin says we're "too young to think about it." What do I say to that?

MAPPING OUT MY FUTURE IN L.A.

DEAR MAPPING: It appears you are more mature than your boyfriend. Because you are determined to eventually adopt a child, I agree that it's important for you to know whether Griffin has any negative feelings about adoption because some people are unable to accept a child who is not their own. The next time he says you're too young to think about such things, explain that.

There is a vast difference between a "promise ring" and a little gold band. Because Griffin presented you with a promise ring is no guarantee that in five years the two of you will make it to the altar together. You may need to be with someone who, like you, is more geared to mapping out a future and wants to settle down.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Annie," is a single mother, holds a full-time job and trains for triathlons. Her son, "Cooper," is 3. Annie has him enrolled in day care from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. every day while she's at work. Afterward, she picks up Cooper from day care and checks him into the gym's child care service while she works out.

I have offered to pick my grandson up from day care once a week and keep him until Annie finishes her workout. My other daughter has offered to pick him up twice a week so he can play with his cousin at her house.

Annie has become defensive. She says we're offering because we think she's neglecting him. Actually, I DO think so. It breaks my heart that my grandson spends 12 hours a day in day care. Do you agree with me? What should I do?

WORRIED GRANNY IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR WORRIED GRANNY: Annie may be defensive because she feels some guilt, or because you need to become a better actress and transmit less disapproval.

Apologize to her if that will smooth things over. Explain that you would like Cooper to spend time with you because you love him and want him to develop warm childhood memories of his grandmother. Tell Annie that her sister wants him to spend time with his cousin so they will have a closer bond when they're older. Then cross your fingers and hope she'll accept the offers.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is your definition of a committed relationship?

TRYING FOR ONE IN TEXAS

DEAR TRYING: A committed relationship is one in which both parties agree that it will remain mutually exclusive.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

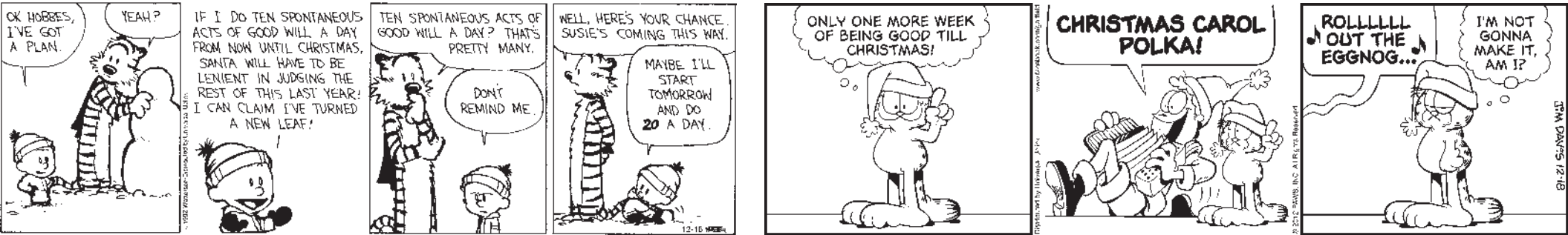
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

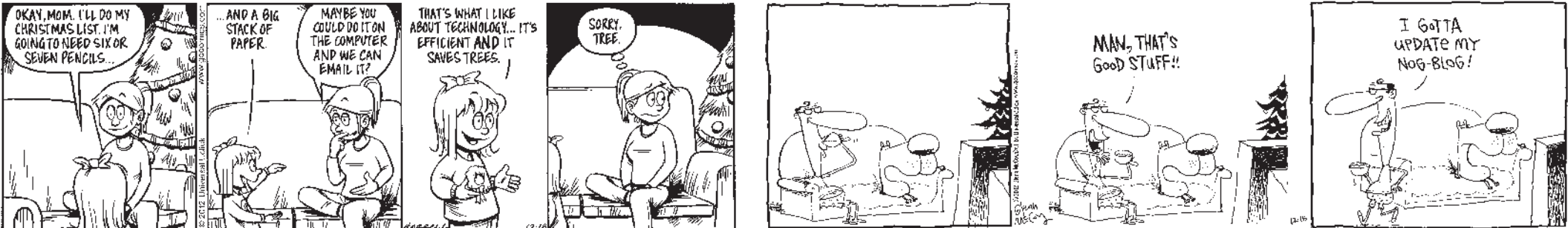
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Muse's instrument

5 Renders speechless

9 Obtain

12 Billions of years

13 Future stallion

14 Multi-purpose truck

15 Avocado dip

17 Top card

18 Singles

19 Gordon and Ginsburg

21 Mad

24 It begins at 40

25 Toe woe

26 Zig-zagged on skis

30 Eggs

31 Actress Witherspoon

32 Past

33 Clothing

35 Story line

36 "— She Sweet?"

37 Instant

DOWN

1 Lower limb

2 Thee

3 Genetic letters

4 Accompany to a party

5 Pinnacle

6 Courts

7 Right angle

8 Germ-free

9 Central American nation

10 Leave an impression

11 Golf gadgets

16 Whatever number

20 Aliens' craft

21 Enthusiastic, plus

22 PBS science show

23 Insure

24 Glasgow girl

26 Transmitted

27 Allow

28 Hollywood clashers

29 "... — protest too much"

31 Went back on an agreement

34 Karaoke need, for short

35 Award for a dentist?

37 Med. approval org.

38 Take to the seas

39 Black

40 Simple

41 Coloring agents

44 Can. neighbor

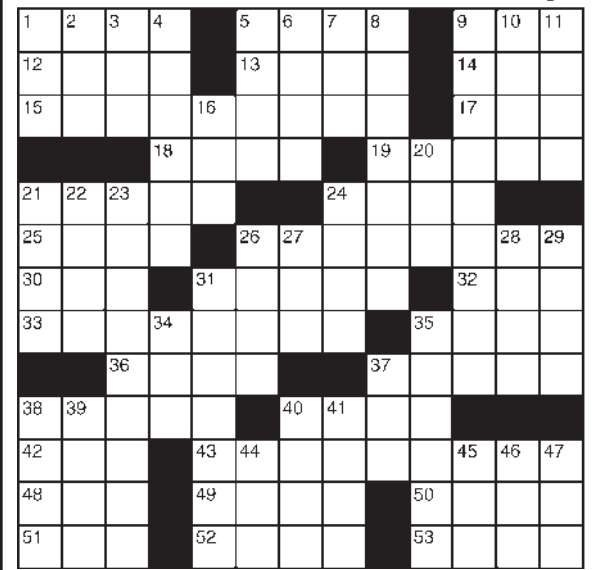
45 Web address

46 Doctrine

47 — Vegas

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Christina Aguilera, 32; Katie Holmes, 34; Brad Pitt, 49; Steven Spielberg, 66.

Happy Birthday: Patience, integrity and continually double-checking everything you do will be mandatory if you want to avoid mishaps. Keep life simple. Change may be your desire and impulse your drive, but sticking to a realistic plan will be key to your advancement. Your numbers are 6, 9, 15, 27, 32, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Common sense will lead to victory. Whether you are trying to close a deal or revive an old friendship, your kind words and positive suggestions will help you cut through any negativity or deception. Love is in the stars. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Picking up items you'll use throughout the festive season along with making a donation or helping out a friend will bring you good vibes and plenty of joy. Knowing what you want will help you make a wise choice regarding a partnership. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not everything will be as it appears. Take a step back and observe what everyone else is doing. You will be easily fooled by someone's generosity and compliments. Ask questions and find out exactly what's expected of you in return. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotions will take you down an unusual path that will allow you to clearly see your options. Making a good choice based on your findings will spare you from an impulsive

and costly move. Avoid overindulgent, escapist people. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get into the spirit of the season. Attending a party with colleagues will broaden your outlook regarding how you can expand a service or skill you have to offer. Romance is highlighted, but you shouldn't feel obligated to overspend to win someone's love. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a serious attitude when dealing with partnerships and responsibilities needing your help. Don't feel the need to overspend in order to avoid disappointment. Keep your life simple and ease stress by taking part in something physical. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Shopping, traveling and taking care of some of the people who depend on your help will ease your mind so that you can look forward to festive events and changes you want to make before the year comes to a close. Focus on love. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by someone playing with your emotions. Take a closer look at what's being promised before you set your sights on something that may not come through. Travel plans may have to be revised. Follow your intuition. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't promise what you cannot deliver. It's important to stick to the truth and to use your imagination and creative ability to please someone you love. A chance to make a difference to someone facing restrictions will be rewarded. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Facing your past and looking at your future will help you realize that the present is what's important and the history you have with friends, family or your lover are worth far more than any gift you can give. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Bring joy to others through your actions. A small gesture or showing gratitude will go a long way. Do what's best for you and you will make those around you happy as well. Enjoy what you have and share with those in need. ***

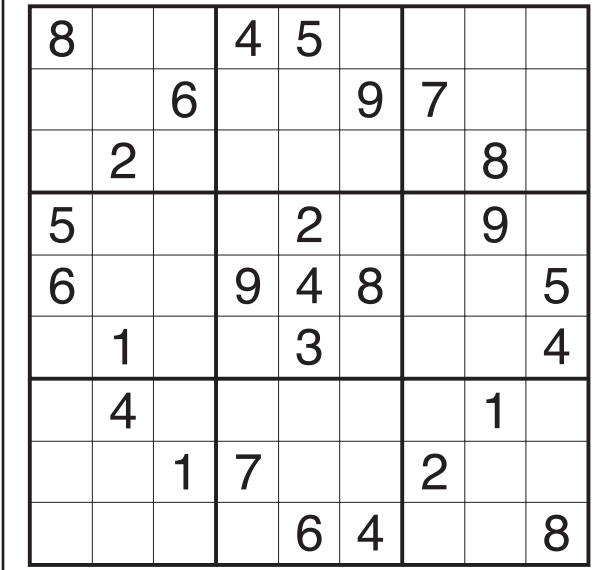
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Realize what you can and what you cannot do. Trying to provide the impossible will be fruitless. Focus on the little things: positive thought, plenty of love and spending time with people in your life who count most. ***

Birthday Baby: You have endurance, strength and valor. You are forthright and insightful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	7	8	3	2	5	1	4
1	4	8	5	7	9	3	2	6
3	2	5	1	6	4	7	8	9
5	3	6	7	2	1	9	4	8
9	7	4	3	8	6	1	5	2
8	1	2	4	9	5	6	7	3
4	8	3	9	1	7	2	6	5
7	6	9	2	5	8	4	3	1
2	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UNICEF Solution: 8 letters

C	D	D	S	I	S	I	R	C	F	T	S	O	H	G
H	O	O	E	P	L	E	H	E	M	D	O	O	F	N
A	C	N	R	D	T	S	C	H	O	O	L	H	C	I
R	T	A	T	A	I	I	G	O	N	G	I	A	H	T
I	O	T	W	R	N	C	G	H	E	O	F	L	I	E
T	R	E	O	U	I	G	A	M	Y	L	E	L	L	E
Y	S	R	R	O	U	B	E	T	W	G	O	O	D	M
R	U	A	L	L	N	D	U	B	I	O	I	W	R	I
A	R	F	D	F	I	O	E	T	O	O	M	E	E	T
T	V	L	W	A	T	T	S	L	I	X	N	E	N	R
N	I	E	I	M	E	R	E	S	I	O	E	N	N	E
U	V	W	D	I	D	E	I	R	E	V	N	S	D	A
L	A	W	E	L	E	S	A	C	A	L	E	S	I	T
O	L	R	E	Y	W	A	L	S	K	C	M	R	E	T
V	I	S	I	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	Y	L	L	

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Case, Charity, Children, Contributions, Crisis, Dedication, Delivery, Doctors, Donate, Family, Food, Goods, Halloween, Help, Host, Hygiene, Lawyer, Lesson, Life, Literacy, Logo, Media, Meeting, Money, Nation, Orange Boxes, Safe, School, Survival, Term, Time, Treat, Trick, UNICEF, United, Vision, Voluntary, Water, Welfare, Women, Worldwide

Yesterday's Answer: Sweetheart

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 34: 343 four-letter words, 1,000 five-letter words, 1,000 six-letter words, 1,000 seven-letter words, 1,000 eight-letter words, 1,000 nine-letter words, 1,000 ten-letter words, 1,000 eleven-letter words, 1,000 twelve-letter words, 1,000 thirteen-letter words, 1,000 fourteen-letter words, 1,000 fifteen-letter words, 1,000 sixteen-letter words, 1,000 seventeen-letter words, 1,000 eighteen-letter words, 1,000 nineteen-letter words, 1,000 twenty-letter words, 1,000 twenty-one-letter words, 1,000 twenty-two-letter words, 1,000 twenty-three-letter words, 1,000 twenty-four-letter words, 1,000 twenty-five-letter words, 1,000 twenty-six-letter words, 1,000 twenty-seven-letter words, 1,000 twenty-eight-letter words, 1,000 twenty-nine-letter words, 1,000 thirty-letter words, 1,000 thirty-one-letter words, 1,000 thirty-two-letter words, 1,000 thirty-three-letter words, 1,000 thirty-four-letter words, 1,000 thirty-five-letter words, 1,000 thirty-six-letter words, 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CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Installer (Alarm and Camera). Email resume to Marianas Security Corporation at msc@marianassecurity.com.

1 Certified Real Estate Appraiser. Must be a CNMI licensed general appraiser. Must have 15 years experience of all types of real properties, excellent knowledge in Microsoft Excel and Word. Marianas Professional Services, Inc. Email resume to lbtappraisal@pticom.com

US Workers only. Optician & Medical Biller. Apply in person at Marianas Eye Institute. NO PHONE CALL PLS.

1 Maintenance Repairer \$5.55/hr. 4 yrs. exp. JJ Brother Corp #235-4485 jikanghn@gmail.com.

General Manager (1) - \$ 6.00/hr. With 5 years work experience. Massage Therapist (8) - \$ 5.55/hr. With 2 years work experience. Tang Investment Inc. Tel: 285-6656

1 Commercial Cleaner. Experience and References required. Contact Pacific Rim International at 234-9351.

1 - Gen. Maint. & Repairer. Salary \$5.55hr. 1 yr exp. Call Estevan M. Borja, Jr. dba E & Son Gen. Maintenance @ 433-2204.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

LOOKING FOR JOB

Do you need a helper? Any type of laborer job I can do it, if you need a good helper please call me: 287-6686 Qiu

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00 / month. Kobleville, please call 288-0728.

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Cook Helper
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Minimum of 2 - 10 years experience in a Chinese restaurant. Knowledge in Chinese language a plus.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1-GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER
• SALARY: \$ 5.55 PER HOUR - FULL TIME
• MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN GOLDSMITH
• MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY REPAIR, FABRICATING HAWAIIAN STYLE, GEM STONE SETTING & MOUNTING. DO RELATED WORKS.

1-ACCOUNTANT
• SALARY: \$ 5.55 PER HOUR - FULL TIME
• MINIMUM 3-4 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH COLLEGE DEGREE
• MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN JEWELRIES, PRECIOUS STONE INVENTORY

MAIL RESUME TO KING'S INC.
P.O. BOX 5050 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950
OR FAX (670) 234-8868



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOBEL CORPORATION
P.O. Box 505223 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Teacher (Assistant)
Salary \$5.55p/h. Min. 4 yrs exp. Must have certificate for infant & toddler competency & safety training from DCCA. Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FULL TIME POSITION AVAILABLE:
ONE (1) HVAC METAL SHEET WORKER (DUCTMAN)
Salary \$5.55-\$6.00/hr

- FABRICATE, ASSEMBLE, INSTALL AND REPAIR SHEET METAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS DUCTS, CONTROL BOXES, DRAIN PIPES AND AHU CASINGS
- MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH METAL, FIBER GLASS AND KOOLDUCT DUCTING FABRICATION
- SET-UP AND OPERATE FABRICATING MACHINE, TOOLS AND WELDING EQUIPMENT
- MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN INTERPRETING PLANS AND SPECIFICATION
- MUST POSSESS GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILL AND
- WITH A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE

Apply personally at:
JWS AC and Ref., Inc.'s
Office at Dotse PI Beach Road, Garapan Village
Saipan, MP 96950 Northern Mariana Islands
Tel No. 670 235-5572/4
Fax No. 670 235 5573
or send your resume at:
jwssaipan@pticom.com
tonys.iwssaipan@pticom.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Electronic Technician – 5 yrs experience – \$ 5.55/hr. Must be certified/licensed air-conditioning technician. Knowledgeable in satellite TV System, CCTV camera, alarm system, entertainment equipment & other electronics equipment – installation and service repair. Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to
Langqiang L. Barcinas dba Ally Electronics.
P.O. Box 503534 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. # 287-9968/email-langqiang@hotmail.com

HANOM INVESTMENT SAIPAN INC. DBA TREASURE ISLAND GAME CLUB 777
is looking for qualified:
Electronic Technician
with at least 3 yrs experience.
Please call 233-5100 and look for Islam.

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) SHEET METAL WORKER

- Fabricate, assemble, install and repair sheet metal products and equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes and furnace casings
- Set-up and operate fabricating machines, soldering and welding equipment
- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications

Other requirements:

- Minimum 10-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

COST CONTROLLER

The incumbent for this position will be responsible for all routine reconciling, inputting and reporting of all inventories into the Inventory System.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- College degree required.
- Accounting background preferred.
- Must have strong reconciliation, analytical and organizational skills.
- Must have strong computer skills in Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Knowledge in MAS 90 inventory and general ledger modules preferred.
- Must be willing to work during weekends, if necessary.

Complete applications must be received by 5:00pm on DECEMBER 27, 2012.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
Skills testing may be required for this position. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Supervisor, Food & Beverage (2)
Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experience and training. Must be reliable, self motivated and good communicator. Oversee the day to day operations of dining areas, ensuring that the facility remains in compliance with safety regulations and health codes. Observe and evaluate workers and work procedures to ensure quality standards and service. Supervise and participate in dining area cleaning activities. Train workers in service, sanitation and safety procedures. Complete and balance cash receipts at the end of the day or shift. Attends to customer complaints or issues, resolving matter as expediently as possible.

Position: Equipment Technician (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of experience and training. Knowledge of machines & tools including their designs, uses, repair and maintenance. Record details of repairs made and parts used. Reassemble machine and equipment following repair, test operation and make adjustment as necessary. Maintain, repair and overhaul Golf Course machinery and vehicles such as tractors and irrigation system. Examine and listen to equipment, read inspection reports to locate and diagnose malfunctions. Dismantle the defective machines for repair using hand tools. Test and replace electrical components and wiring using tests meters, soldering equipment and hand tools. Repair & replace defective parts. Clean and lubricate parts. Tune and overhaul engines.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (1)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road. May submit resume online at:
tmatsunaga@laolabay.com

Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on December 21, 2012.

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc. dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as...
\$29.99
without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Interior Designer
- with 4 to 5 years experience
If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001
Tel: 285-5354 or 285-4297

WHATZIT Solution: You said it!

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

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Find today's solution in classified section

49ers clinch playoff berth, 41-34 over Patriots



FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP)—The San Francisco 49ers earned a playoff berth by withstanding a stunning comeback by New England from a 28-point deficit to beat the Patriots 41-34 on Sunday night in the rain.

Michael Crabtree took a short pass from Colin Kaepernick and sped around cornerback Kyle Arrington for a 38-yard touchdown with 6:25 to go, then David Akers made a 28-yard field goal to clinch it.

San Francisco (10-3-1) owns at least a wild-card spot and plays at Seattle next week with a chance to win the NFC West. A loss would bring the division race down to the final weekend.

Kaepernick threw for four touchdowns, two to Crabtree, who had 107 yards receiving. The defense rattled Tom Brady at times, but also yielded 443 yards passing.

AFC East champion New England (10-4), which had won seven in a row, trailed 31-3 at one point and lost for the first time at home in December in 21 games. The Patriots also had won 21 in a row in the second half of the schedule before San Francisco somehow regrouped late in a game it seemingly had clinched long before.

Packers 21, Bears 13

In Chicago, the Packers clinched their second straight NFC North title with a win over archrival Chicago.

James Jones caught all three touchdown passes thrown by Aaron Rodgers. Green Bay has now won six straight in the NFL's oldest—and fiercest—rivalry.

The Packers (10-4) have won 12 straight against NFC North opponents, the longest streak in the NFL.

Brandon Marshall had a 15-yard TD catch for the Bears, who have lost five of six and are in danger of missing the playoffs after beginning the year 7-1. Clay Matthews continued his torture of Jay Cutler with two sacks, and Alshon Jeffery hurt the Bears (8-6) with three offensive pass interference calls late in the second half.

Texans 29, Colts 17

In Houston, the Houston Texans are AFC South champions for the second straight year.

Andre Johnson had 151 yards receiving and a touchdown, Bryan Braman scored on a blocked punt and Shayne Graham kicked five field goals.

The Texans (12-2) grabbed their first AFC South title last season after the Colts nosedived without injured quarterback Peyton Manning. Manning is gone and Andrew Luck couldn't do much against Houston's defense.

The Colts (9-5) had won three straight and needed a win to clinch a playoff berth a year after going 2-14.

J.J. Watt had three sacks as

Houston's defense got back on track a week after a 42-14 loss to New England.

The Texans will have home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs in they win out.

Redskins 38, Browns 21

In Cleveland, rookie Kirk Cousins threw for 329 yards and two touchdowns filling in for injured star Robert Griffin III, leading Washington to its fifth straight win.

Cousins connected with Leonard Hankerson for both TDs in his first career start and the Redskins (8-6) barely missed a beat without the talented and multi-dimensional RG3, who sat out with a sprained knee.

Last week, Cousins came off the bench after Griffin got hurt. Cousins was behind center from the start of this one and delivered a performance that extended Washington's longest winning streak since 2007 and moved the Redskins into a tie for first in the NFC East.

Rookie Trent Richardson had a pair of TD runs for the Browns (5-9).

Vikings 36, Rams 22

In St. Louis, Adrian Peterson ran for a season-best 212 yards, including an 82-yard touchdown that fueled the Minnesota's big second quarter.

Peterson has 1,812 yards rushing, leaving him 294 shy of breaking the NFL's single-season record of 2,105 by Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams in 1984. Peterson, less than a year removed from a serious knee injury, has two games left—at Houston and home against Green Bay—to top Dickerson.

The Vikings (8-6) scored 10 of their 23 points in the second quarter off turnovers by Sam Bradford, including a 29-yard interception return by defensive end Everson Griffen.

The Rams fell to 6-7-1.

Falcons 34, Giants 0

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw three touchdowns passes and Atlanta handed the Giants their first regular-season shutout since 1996.

Julio Jones caught a couple of scoring throws from Ryan, who broke his own franchise records for completions and passing yards in a season. He finished 23 of 28 for 270 yards.

The Falcons (12-2), who have already clinched the NFC South, moved a step closer to locking up home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs. One more win would lock it up.

Eli Manning threw two interceptions for New York (8-6), which came into the game with a one-game lead over Washington and Dallas in the NFC East.

Broncos 34, Ravens 17

In Baltimore, Chris Harris returned an interception 98 yards for a momentum-turning



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) makes a catch in front of New England Patriots free safety Devin McCourty (32) that he ran in for a touchdown in the third quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

touchdown, and Denver won its ninth straight.

Peyton Manning threw for 204 yards and a score in his ninth consecutive win against Baltimore, the first with the Broncos (11-3).

Down 10-0 late in the first half, the Ravens had a first-and-goal at the Denver 4 when Harris stepped in front of Anquan Boldin, picked off a pass by Joe Flacco and sprinted down the right sideline en route to the longest regular-season interception return in Broncos history.

The Ravens (9-5) were playing their first game under offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell, who replaced the fired Cam Cameron. Baltimore clinched a playoff spot by virtue of Pittsburgh's overtime loss to Dallas.

Seahawks 50, Bills 17

In Toronto, Seattle rookie quarterback Russell Wilson ran for three touchdowns and threw for another in leading the Seahawks to their second straight rout.

Wilson scored on runs of 14, 25 and 4 yards and then hit Zach Miller for a 4-yard touchdown in helping the Seahawks score 31 points on their first five possessions. The defense forced three consecutive turnovers to

start the second half, including Earl Thomas scoring on 57-yard interception return.

A week after a 58-0 win at home against Arizona, the Seahawks (9-5) inched closer to clinching a playoff berth and became the NFL's third team to score 50 points on consecutive weekends. The Bills (5-9) were knocked out of playoff contention for a 13th consecutive season.

Cowboys 27, Steelers 24 OT

In Arlington, Texas, Brandon Carr intercepted a pass from Ben Roethlisberger to set up Dan Bailey's 21-yard field goal in overtime.

The Cowboys won a Bailey kick on the final play for the second straight week since practice squad linebacker Jerry Brown was killed in a one-car accident that led to manslaughter charges against teammate Josh Brent.

Carr intercepted Roethlisberger's pass along the sideline and returned it 36 yards to the 1. Bailey's kick came after Tony Romo took a 2-yard loss to put the kicker in better position.

The Cowboys (8-6) moved into a three-way tie for the NFC East lead with the Giants and

Redskins. The Steelers (7-7) lost for the fourth time in five games.

Cardinals 31, Lions 10

In Glendale, Arizona, Greg Toler returned an interception 102 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown as Arizona ended a nine-game losing streak.

The Cardinals (5-9) intercepted Matthew Stafford three times, returning two for touchdowns and setting up a TD with the other. The Lions (4-10) lost their sixth straight. Rashad Johnson brought back a pick 53 yards for a touchdown to cap Arizona's 21-point second quarter. Patrick Peterson's interception set up another score.

Detroit's Calvin Johnson became the first player in NFL history with consecutive 1,600-yard receiving seasons and tied an NFL record with his seventh straight 100-yard receiving game.

Panthers 31, Chargers 7

In San Diego, Mike Tolbert scored twice against his former team and DeAngelo Williams turned a tipped pass from Cam Newton into a 45-yard touchdown reception.

Carolina (5-9) won consecutive games for the first time since last December. The loss

knocked the Chargers out of playoff contention for the third straight year.

The Chargers (5-9) clinched their first losing season since 2003, when they were an NFL-worse 4-12. Coach Norv Turner is expected to be fired at season's end, most likely along with general manager A.J. Smith.

Tolbert capped Carolina's first two drives with 1-yard scoring runs. His second TD was set up when Philip Rivers lost a fumble, his 21st turnover this season and 46th in less than two full seasons.

Saints 41, Buccaneers 0

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 307 yards and four touchdowns, and New Orleans posted its first shutout since 1995.

Brees connected on his scoring passes with tight end David Thomas, running back Darren Sproles and receivers Lance Moore and Joe Morgan. Mark Ingram added an 11-yard touchdown run.

Josh Freeman endured one of his worst outings of the season for Tampa Bay (6-8), throwing four interceptions and losing a fumble. Jabari Greer made two interceptions, Rafael Bush and Isa Abdul-Quddus the others. Cameron Jordan forced Freeman's fumble on a sack and recovered it.

New Orleans (6-8) also bottled up standout rookie running back Doug Martin, holding him to 16 yards on nine carries.

Dolphins 24, Jaguars 3

In Miami, Miami kept former teammate Chad Henne out of the end zone, made three fourth-down stops deep in its own territory and benefited from an odd penalty.

Henne, playing in Miami for the first time since he departed as a Dolphins bust last offseason, threw for 221 yards with no turnovers. But the Dolphins turned back three scoring threats, and a go-ahead touchdown for the Jaguars came off the board because of an illegal-substitution penalty.

Ryan Tannehill went 22 for 28 for 220 yards and two scores with no interceptions to help Miami (6-8). The Jaguars (2-12) helped their chances of getting the No. 1 draft pick next April.

Raiders 15, Chiefs 0

In Oakland, California, Sebastian Janikowski kicked five field goals and Darren McFadden rushed for 110 yards.

The Raiders (4-10) overwhelmed the Chiefs (2-12) to snap a six-game losing streak. Sandwiched around those losses are a pair of wins over Kansas City, a rare bright spot in this disappointing season in Oakland.

There has been little to cheer for this season for the Chiefs, who have lost 10 of 11 games and are tied for the second most losses in franchise history behind a 2-14 mark in 2008.

Bryant helps Lakers top 76ers, 111-98



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 34 points, Metta World Peace added 19 points and a career-high 16 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers won consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month with a 111-98 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday.

Dwight Howard had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who led 60-50 at halftime. Darius Morris had a career-high 15 points, all in the first half, and Chris Duhon scored 14.

The Lakers (11-14), who beat Washington 102-96 on Friday night, won two in a row for the first time since a three-game streak from Nov. 16-20.

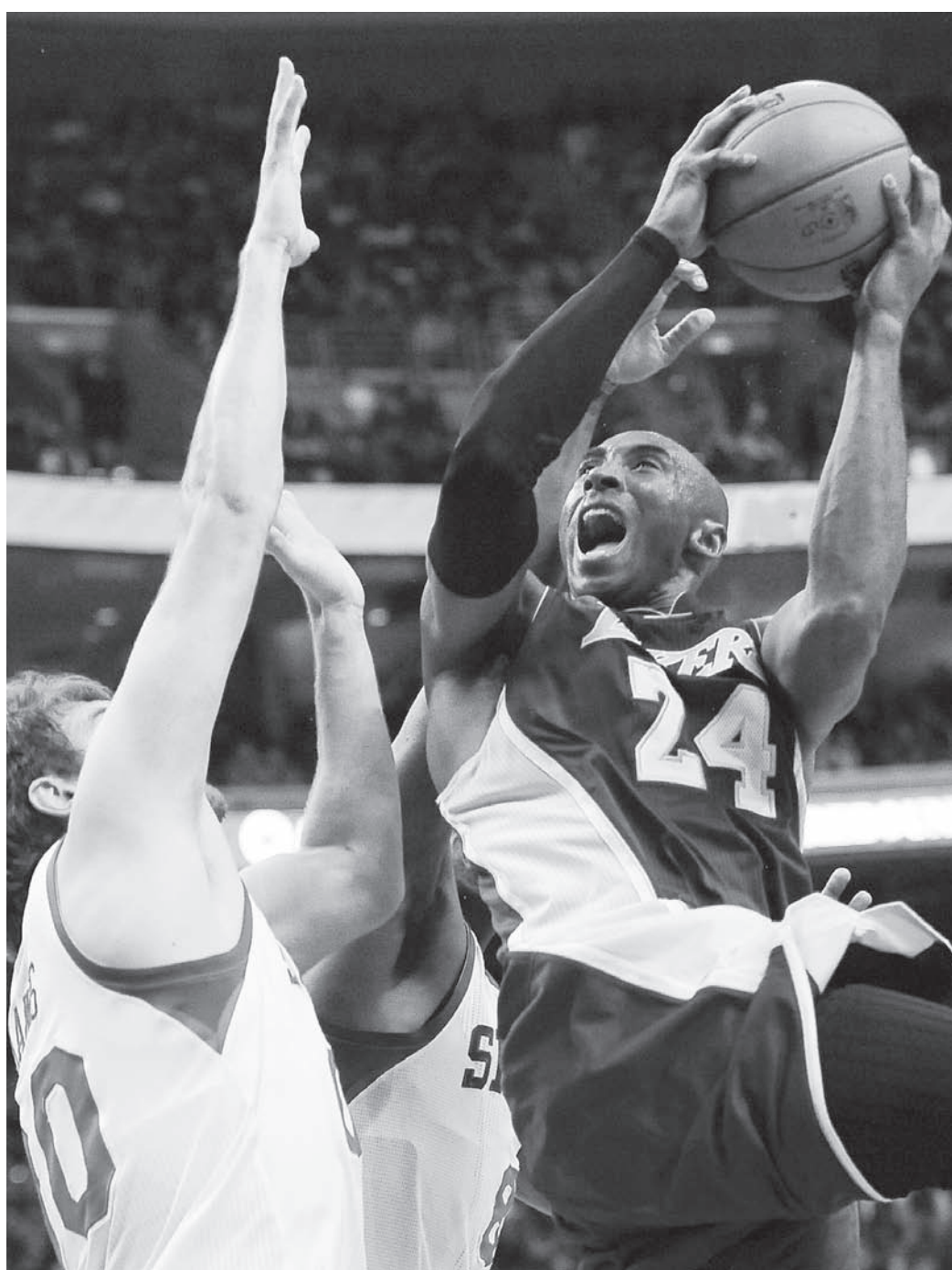
Even without injured stars Steve Nash and Pau Gasol, the Lakers hardly resembled the team which entered the night four games below .500.

Nick Young paced the reeling Sixers (12-12) with 30 points while Spencer Hawes and Evan Turner added 16 apiece. Thaddeus Young had 14 for Philadelphia, which dropped its third straight game for the first time this season.

Like the Lakers, the Sixers also have been playing short-handed. Point guard Jrue Holiday, who averages a team-best 18.4 points, missed his second consecutive game with a sprained left foot.

Los Angeles led 87-73 after three, but the Sixers closed to 91-82 with 8:27 remaining.

The Lakers responded with a 9-3 surge to go back up by 15 at



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers' Spencer Hawes (00) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Philadelphia.

100-85 with 5:15 left. Suddenly, all those boos careening down from the rafters toward Bryant and his teammates turned into fans heading up the aisles to leave the building.

Los Angeles was 14 for 34 from 3-point range. Duhon was 4 for 10 from beyond the arc, and World Peace and Morris each made three 3s.

The Lakers' 10 3s in the first half broke the record for most in a half at the Wells Fargo Center, which opened in 1996.

Raptors 103, Rockets 96

In Toronto, Jose Calderon had 18 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds, and Toronto won consecutive games for the first time in eight months with a victory over Houston.

Alan Anderson had 24 points and DeMar DeRozan added 19 for the Raptors (6-19), who hadn't won consecutive games since April 13 and 15 of last season.

James Harden scored 28 points for the Rockets and Marcus Morris added 19.

Former Raptors sharpshooter Carlos Delfino drained two baskets in the final 1:04 to pull the Rockets within two points, but Calderon sunk two free throws to put Toronto back up by four.

The teams traded free throws for most of the final minute.

Nuggets 122, Kings 97

In Sacramento, California, reserve JaVale McGee scored 19 points, Danilo Gallinari had

18 and Denver built a big lead in the first half to cruise past Sacramento.

The Nuggets scored 16 straight points to snap a first-quarter tie and take control.

Denver has won seven in a row against the Kings. Sacramento has lost four straight overall.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings.

Sacramento's Aaron Brooks committed a hard foul against Andre Miller late in the first quarter and a mild altercation ensued involving Cousins and Kenneth Faried of the Nuggets. All four players were given technical fouls.

Trail Blazers 95, Hornets 94

In Portland, Oregon, rookie Damian Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds left as Portland handed New Orleans its sixth straight loss.

After trailing by as many as 16, Austin Rivers hit a 3-pointer for the Hornets to tie it at 92 with 50.9 seconds left to set up Lillard's winner. Lance Thomas made a layup for the Hornets as time ran out for the final margin.

J.J. Hickson had a season-high 24 points and added 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won three straight. Hickson has five straight double-doubles and 13 overall this season.

Ryan Anderson had 26 points, including seven 3-pointers, for New Orleans.

Kevin Youkilis, Yankees finalize \$12 million deal



NEW YORK (AP)—After spending 8 1/2 years in Boston and delivering a pair of World Series titles to the Fenway Park faithful, Kevin Youkilis was surprised when the New York Yankees expressed interest in fitting him for pinstripes.

"At first, it was kind of like, 'Wow!'" he said Friday after finalizing a \$12 million, one-year contract with New York. "There's a lot of great Red Sox fans that just wanted the best for me going forward and I know there's going to be some that don't like the decision, and you can't worry about that."

A three-time All-Star, Youkilis becomes the Yankees' starting third baseman for at least the first half of next season while Alex Rodriguez recovers from hip surgery. A-Rod's operation is scheduled for next month.

"Obviously, he certainly cushions the blow of losing Alex," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "That's a difficult loss. When you have a healthy Alex Rodriguez, you have really one of the game's

more productive players. But I couldn't think of anybody better to replace him in the short-term with as Kevin Youkilis."

While announcing the deal for Youkilis, the Yankees closed in on a \$13 million, two-year contract with outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The sides still had to finalize language and the deal will be subject to a physical, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not complete. Suzuki will get \$6.5 million a year.

Youkilis, traded from the Red Sox to the Chicago White Sox in June, joined Babe Ruth, Wade Boggs, Roger Clemens and Johnny Damon as Boston players who made the switch to the Bronx in the heated rivalry. He'll get an early look at his old club: The Red Sox are set to open at Yankee Stadium on April 1.

"I reached out to Johnny. He just said you're going to love the experience. It's a great place to play," Youkilis said.

But Damon also has felt the wrath of Red Sox fans.

"He's had a hard time in Bos-

ton. I saw him the other day. It's kind of upsetting to him, the fact that they've been pretty rough on him," Youkilis said.

He also plans to speak with Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain. The pair feuded in the past over tight fastballs.

"It's not a big deal to me," Youkilis said. "If it was that big of a deal, I wouldn't be signing with the Yankees."

Chamberlain left Youkilis a voicemail this week, but they haven't spoken.

"I haven't been able to return so many calls," Youkilis said. "But I'll reach out to him and talk to him."

If and when Rodriguez returns, Youkilis figures to see time at first base backing up Mark Teixeira. He also could get some games at designated hitter.

"And they told me I'm going to play shortstop, too," Youkilis said before quickly adding he had no intention of taking time away from Yankees captain Derek Jeter. "I'm just kidding. They're definitely not going to put me at short. If they put me at short, we're going to be in a lot of trouble."

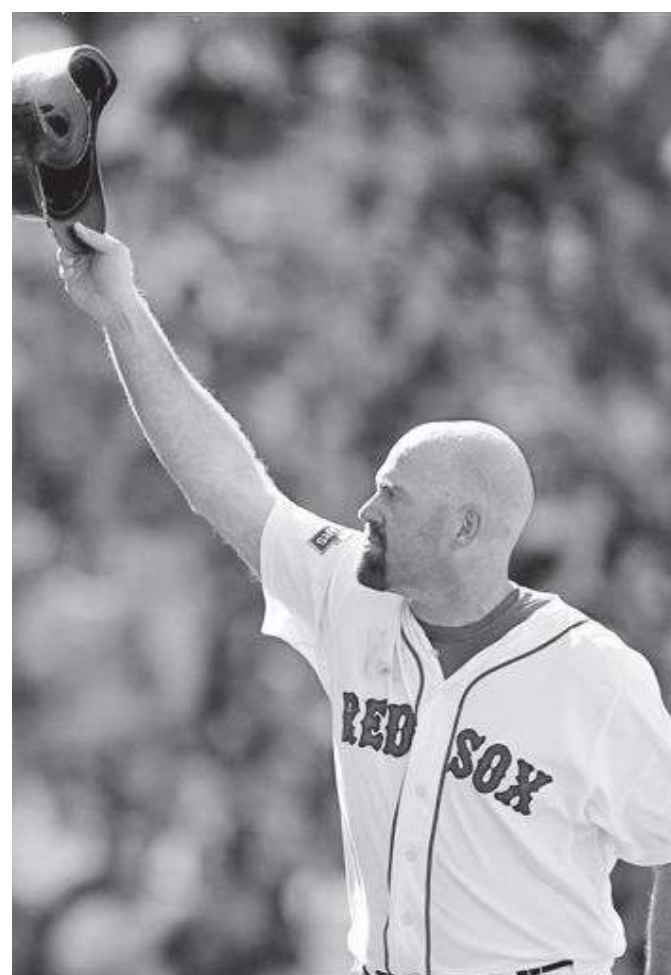
Rodriguez, who turns 38 in July, will have surgery in mid-January, and the Yankees said the anticipated recovery time is six months.

"I'm not going to guarantee anything about when he's coming back or how he'll come back. So we'll just have to wait and see," Cashman said. "We hope we can bring him back into the fold and have the high-caliber player that we hoped to have prior to these injuries. But our season and our team is going on regardless, and therefore that's why this was such an important acquisition."

Rodriguez is owed \$114 million by the Yankees as part of his record \$275 million, 10-year contract.

"I'm not in a position here to guarantee anything or frame what the realistic expectations are as we move forward over the next five years with what we're going to get from him," Cashman said. "I just think we have to play it out and see."

To make room for Youkilis on the 40-man roster, the Yankees designated left-hander Josh Spence for assignment.



In this June 24, 2012, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis tips his helmet as he comes off the field after hitting a triple and being replaced with a pinch runner in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Boston.

Donaire heads Fighter of the Year favorites



HOUSTON, Texas—If blasting Jorge Arce into oblivion is Nonito Donaire Jr.'s way of getting attention, then he has succeeded.

Donaire, dubbed "The Filipino Flash," made a strong case for 2012 Fighter of the Year honors of the Boxing Writers Association of America with a third-round knockout of four-division champion Arce Saturday night at Toyota Center here.

While fighting twice or thrice a year has become the norm for elite fighters, the 30-year-old Donaire fought four quality opponents this year, hurdling each one with aplomb.

On Feb. 4, Donaire bested former

world champion Wilfredo Vasquez Jr. to clinch the WBO 122-pound title. On July 7, he dominated then IBF champion Jeffrey Mathebula, to unify the titles. Next to fall was WBC super bantam king Toshiaki Nishioka, who hang up his gloves after a ninth-round stoppage on Oct. 16.

Arce announced his retirement right after the beating he absorbed from Donaire, who is riding an 11-year, 30-bout win streak en route to a 31-1 record with 20 knockouts.

Informed that he is again a leading contender for Fighter of the Year, Donaire, who made the final five nominees in last year's race won by Andre Ward, said Saturday he is leaving the



Nonito Donaire, left, hits Jorge Arce during their WBO junior featherweight title boxing match Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, in Houston. Donaire knocked Arce out in the third round.

choice up to the US sportswriters.

Donaire said it would be a welcome Christmas gift for him if he takes this year's plum. He has actually dominated the best in the 122-pound division and wants to clean up the remaining elite fighters like Abner Mares and Guillermo Rigondeaux.

Donaire is the first boxer to submit to year-round random drug testing administered by the Voluntarily Anti-Doping Association.

If he gets selected as Fighter of the Year, Donaire will join compatriot Manny Pacquiao in the elite roster. Pacquiao won the award in 2006, 2008 and 2009 and was chosen as BWAA's Fighter of the Decade. (www.inquirer.net)

Little League general membership meeting today

The 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Board of Directors will hold a mandatory general membership meeting at 6pm today at the pavilion behind

the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Topics for discussion include the start up of the upcoming 2013 season, substitute field selections,



adoption of the new ground rules, final count of participating teams, recruitment efforts, and fundraising generation.

All interested managers, coaches, and volunteers for the upcoming season are encouraged to attend. (*Walter Cepeda Sutherland*)

REZNE

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5 of the 100m IM and posted 1:02.56, .33 seconds faster than his previous PBT of 1:02.89. The 16-year-old swimmer finished fifth in the heat and 56th overall with a split time of 29.22 seconds.

Kimura and Wong then wrapped up their stint in the 25-meter pool competition via the 50m breaststroke with the latter ruling Heat 6 after submitting 30.09 seconds and defeating Kyrgyzstan's

Damir Davletbaev (30.25 seconds). Wong's winning time also surpassed his PBT (31 seconds) and besides Davletbaev, he edged two other swimmers with better entry time than him.

Kimura also set a new PBT in the 50m breaststroke after completing the race in 31.88 seconds. His entry time stood at 32.01 seconds, the third best among the nine swimmers on Heat 5. He finished third on his heat behind Saint Lucia's Bradford Worrell (30.48 seconds) and Turkmenistan's Ruslan

Nazarov (31.37 seconds). Norway's Aleksander Hetland recorded the fastest qualifying time in the event with his 26.60 seconds.

Chentsova was the last CNMI swimmer to race in Turkey via the 200m freestyle last Sunday morning and her 2:20.00 was there seconds faster than her previous PBT (2:23:01). The lone female swimmer for the Commonwealth was on Heat 2 and finished seventh in her group. Hungary's Zsuzsanna Jakabos ruled the preliminary

races with a time of 1:55.24.

Meanwhile, the Lochte-led U.S. won the short course tournament after collecting 11 gold medals, eight silver, and eight bronze. China finished second with its 3-5-2 gold-silver-bronze medal tally, while Hungary (3-4-3) rounded out the Top 3. Lochte went on to bag the best male swimmer award after earning eight medals, six of them were gold, while Hungary's Katinka Hosszu took the women's plum for gaining two gold medals, two silver, and one bronze.

SIX

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double debut in the featherweight division and earned a first round technical knockout (TKO) victory, at 1:57, due to referee stoppage. Danas connected with some big counter punches during the pair's opening exchanges and opened up a cut on Arurang's forehead.

Soon after, another such shot scored a knockdown for Danas who promptly secured the top position and dealt one last flurry of strikes to earn the nod from the referee. Notably, Arurang showed a lot of heart for going all out in his first trial.

In addition, Danas' teammate Chris "No Luv" Layuug (6-3) rolled out a unanimous decision victory over Team Guam MMA's Mike Vidaurri (3-2) in their featherweight dispute. All three judges scored the bout, 30-27, in favor of Layuug.

Vidaurri made good use of his grappling skills and actually looked to be ahead for the majority of the first round. However, after being tied up in a knot on the ground for a spell, the fighters stood up with about 30 seconds left in the round and Layuug scored a take-down that may have stole the round.

Then just like before, Vidaurri locked Layuug in a guillotine hold at the start of Round 2 and the scrappers became tangled once again, which led to the referee having to stand them up twice in the second round. But all in all Layuug

definitely won Round 2 after the more or less an even opening canto.

Vidaurri is a smart and nimble wrestler with a kind of a defensive approach to fighting that likely saved him from a number of potentially damaging blows thrown by Layuug who employed a more risky, offensive approach.

The chess match ensued through the deciding round until Layuug landed a big body slam and immediately covered his opponent, racking up extra points with some long-awaited strikes from the top. He then took Vidaurri's back for a bit and rode out the rest of the time with side control. The latter scrambled in haste, but did not have time to launch a comeback.

Meanwhile, Tinian's Rino Reyes of Zeng Zung and K-1 Kick Boxer's Regino "The Kid" Mundo (5-1) also notched first round wins last weekend in 1:50 and 0:31, respectively.

Reyes bull-rushed his 160-lb catchweight opponent out of Team Legit, L.J. "Mak'Po" George (0-1), and rang his bell with a big right hook that sent him to the canvas.

George appeared disoriented and hardly made an attempt to defend himself after he fell. He may have been knocked out even though the referee did not intervene, but fortunately, the scary moment only lasted a few seconds. Reyes showed class and reverted from dishing out an unnecessary knockout blow. George remained down for a minute after the

fight, but was able to get up and leave under his own power.

"The Kid" Mundo made light work of independent featherweight Mike Manalo and imposed a TKO-referee stoppage win in just 31 seconds. The K-1 veteran flew out of his corner like a bat out of hell and dominated Manalo in all aspects of the game.

Tinian was supposed to have three fighters featured in Trench Warz 16, but Zeng-Zung's Pete Cepeda (1-2) had to bow out at the last minute, reportedly because of an unspecified injury, thus Mariana's Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (4-12) was gifted a forfeit win to help pad a record in desperate need of an upswing.

Rangamar actually pleaded his case to be added into the bantamweight title conservation with current champion Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (12-5) of Spike 22 and former belt-holder Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-2), who have twice battled it out with the former coming out on top both times. Alvarez did not make a preference as to who will be his next opponent when approached by potential challengers just seconds after winning his prize.

In other results, flyweight K.J. Villagomez (2-0), of Team Sea Horse, Inc., started off the evening's MMA havoc with a first round victory (1:58) over independent rival Leonard "Machine Gun" Sablan (0-1).

Some bad blood resided between the CNMI wildcards coming into the fight,

but the conflict should be squashed from now on. Both young bucks tumbled back and forth in a blur from the get-go, however once Villagomez got a good hold on Sablan it did not take him long at all to sink in a submission.

He almost caught Sablan in a rear-naked choke, but ended up sealing the deal with an impressive guillotine that made the latter tap out.

Zalaka's Jordan Manglona (2-1) improved his K-1 card to 2-2 by earning a unanimous decision over Guam Muay Thai-debut fighter D.J. Duenas.

According to eyewitness accounts, Manglona started strong and took Round 1, but Duenas rallied back in the second round. The fight remained close through the deciding third round, but the former retained the lead he established from the start.

Team Countershot Guam's ever-patient Leandro Dalalo (1-1) broke into the win column with a come-from-behind TKO victory over Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna (5-20) via referee stoppage at 2:21 into the second round of their bantamweight.

Muna led after the opening frame, but Dalalo came out of his corner for Round 2 with much more aggression and scored a quick takedown after which he maneuvered in and out of a number of dominant positions on the ground.

Once Dalalo was able to begin adding ground and pound blows, the fight was over rather quickly.

SEXY

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Dec. 8 and clinched the championship after whipping the Arkie Reusora-mentored LDD FC in the finals, 4-1.

The Sexy Beaches and LDD FC were bracketed in Group 1 and finished in the Top 2 to advance to the crossover semifinal. The Sexy Beaches held a

perfect 4-0 mark in Group 1, beating the Giants, Midgits, Cows Are Strong, and LDD FC, which earned a 3-1 card.

Group 2 had the Red Thunder, Fiesta, Bumble Beach, FC Tanzawa, and Posse'. Red Thunder went on to sweep its pool matches and was joined by Fiesta in the semifinal round. Preliminary games were played in three five-minute periods.

In the Final Four, the Sexy Beaches

faced elimination when it fell behind Fiesta at halftime, 0-1, before getting its rhythm in the second half. LDD FC pulled off an upset over the top-ranked Red Thunder, 3-2. The semis and the finals were played in two six-minute halves. Coach Jerishwin Angeles' Fiesta went on to save third place against the Steve McKagan-mentored Red Thunder.

Prizes were handed out to the Top 4

finishers of the weekend tournament with the Sexy Beaches getting medals, phones from IT&E, and cash. LDD FC and Fiesta also received medals and cash prizes, while the Red Thunder took home phone cards, also from IT&E.

Organizers also presented medals to "Golden Boot" awardees Yvonne Indalecio of LDD FC and Red Thunder's Zhi Peng Lin.

CTSI/D&Q

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first 3:10 of the fourth canto to turn a 5-point deficit to an 84-76 advantage. Fradel Sedillo, who had already scored 24 points after the third period, sat out at the start of the fourth, leaving Rommel Usi as the only offensive threat for Shirley's. Usi missed his first three attempts in the fourth and Shirley's committed a couple of errors against the surging CTSI/D&Q before Sedillo stopped the bleeding with a fastbreak layup, 78-84, 6:40 left on the clock.

However, CTSI/D&Q managed to keep its distance against Shirley's in the remaining minutes of the closely fought finals with Edgar Garcia providing support to Lizama and Jinang. Garcia canned crucial short jumpers from the baseline and scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth frame with 8 of them made in the final half of the canto to help CTSI/D&Q thwart Shirley's rally attempts.

Shirley's made one final push in the last 7 seconds when Usi converted a triple and sliced CTSI/D&Q's lead to 2, 103-105. Shirley's then gave up a quick foul and the gamble paid off, as Kintirino Elieisar muffed both charities with still five seconds left. Eric Dela Rosa then collared the rebound, but was rattled at the backcourt, as he threw a pitch to no one on their frontcourt. Sedillo was still at the backcourt, while Usi just crossed the mid-court when the ball hit the ground before rolling out to the baseline. CTSI/D&Q got the possession back and Lizama dribbled out the last two seconds to secure the championship win.

Lizama finished with a team-high 41 points, scoring 14 in the fourth-quarter rally, including six free throws in the homestretch. His split off an unsportsmanlike foul on Usi gave CTSI/D&Q a 103-106 lead in the last 22 seconds and Jinang added another charity after their team kept possession and Shirley's was forced to foul. Lizama upped the lead to 5 when he got a steal in the inbound play and later went 1-for-2 anew at the stripe.

Behind by 5 points, Shirley's refused to give up, as Usi, who was called for the earlier infraction for hanging on to Lizama's jersey in a fastbreak play, made up for his booby with a triple from the right corner. However, Shirley's still fell short after Dela Rosa's error in the dying seconds of the finale.

Usi led Shirley's losing cause with a game-high 44 markers, while Sedillo chipped in 32. Dela Rosa still finished in twin digits with his 14, but muffed several point-blank shots in the fourth.

Jinang matched Sedillo's output, connecting on seven triples, which kept CTSI/D&Q in the game in the first three quarters.

CTSI/D&Q was awarded the championship trophy right after the tight match, while POI took the third place trophy after another no-show from Fiesta Resort & Spa in the consolation game. Shirley's was also given the second place trophy.

CTSI/D&Q 105 – Lizama 41, Jinang 32, Garcia 12, Mendiola 10, Shai 4, Elieisar 2.

Shirley's Coffee Shop 103 – Usi 44, Sedillo 32, Dela Rosa 14, Yap 7, Escalada 2, Merencilla 2, Galario 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-22, 47-48, 71-76, 105-103.

2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run



Participants in last week's 2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run head out to the course.

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Swim Club president Robert Torres briefs runner about the course.



Eventual top finisher Steve Pixley heads to the finish line.



Two student runners in a close race to the finish.



A spectator takes pictures of two sprinting runners.



Saipan Swim Club's masters swimmer Suzy Kindel keeps her pace as she nears the finish line.



"Hanako" runs to the finish line with Mamiko Oshima-Berger, left, and Kimiko McKagan.



Runners make their way out of the pathwalk near the Minatchom Atdao pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex.



Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield calls out the number of the two runners heading to the finish line.



Participants in the fun run leisurely take walk along Beach Road.



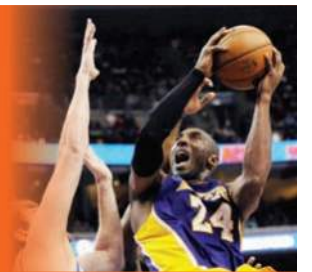
49ers clinch playoff berth, 41-34 over Patriots

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Bryant helps Lakers top 76ers, 111-98

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28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rezne gains two more wins in Turkey

» Kensuke, Victoria set PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lean CNMI Team had a fitting finale performance in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships.

Rezne Wong prevailed in his last two preliminary races, while teammates Kensuke Kimura and Victoria Chentsova recorded personal best times over the weekend at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey to cap the Commonwealth's campaign in the five-day competition.

Wong had the 100m individual medley as his penultimate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong, fourth from left, plunges into the pool during one of his races in the FINA World Swimming Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey last week.



event last Saturday morning (Saturday evening on Saipan) and bested eight other swimmers on Heat 5 after clocking in at 57.89 seconds. The 21-year-old swimmer also set a new PBT in the short course, eclipsing his entry time of 1:02:00. He finished about two seconds ahead of Peru's Enrique Duran Garcia-Bedoya (59.84 seconds), who had the fastest PBT on Heat 5 at 1:00.68. Three other swimmers on Heat 5 held better PBTs than Wong, but placed behind the CNMI bet.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer's time was ranked No. 37 among 73 finishers and had a split time of 27.57 seconds. Ryan Lochte submitted the fastest qualifying time at 51.75 seconds and also won the gold medal in the event.

Kimura joined Wong on Heat

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CTSI/D&Q bags championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CTSI/D&Q waited for the right moment to explode en route to beating Shirley's Coffee Shop in the winner-take-all finale, 105-103, in the 2012 2nd Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The perfect time came at the start of the fourth quarter with CTSI/D&Q dropping a 13-0 bomb and withstanding Shirley's repeated comeback bids in the homestretch to hand the latter another bridesmaid finish. Shirley's lost to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last season.

Shirley had momentum going its way in the closing minutes of the third canto when CTSI/D&Q's Shane Mendiola fouled out and Jack Lizama was one foul away from disqualification. Shirley's led by as much as 8 points in the third before ending the canto with a 76-71 advantage.

Down, but definitely not out, CTSI/D&Q gambled on the foul-troubled Lizama, keeping the mobile big in the game in the fourth canto. Lizama went on to team up with Ariel Jinang in dropping a 13-0 bomb in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CTSI/D&Q's Jack Lizama is double-teamed by two Shirley's Coffee Shop defenders during their title game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Six wrestle out wins in Trench Warz 16

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH®

Trench Tech Purebred Promotion's Trench Warz 16: Fire Power sent off the 2012 mixed martial arts season with holiday spirit as victory spoils went out to six different represented groups from Saipan, Guam, and Tinian last Friday evening at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.



Layuug



Reyes

For starters, Jomar "Dynamite" Danas of host team Trench Tech exploded on Dat

Gym/Team Legit's Yoichi "Rangatang" Arurang in their

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Sexy Beaches rules Fiesta beach soccer tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Sexy Beaches topped the Fiesta U18 Co-ed 5-on-5 Beach Soccer Tournament held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court.

The champion team is composed of Enrico del Rosario, Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Jireh Yobech, Timothy Tawanpit, John Taisacan, Greg Sablan, Marc Mora, Charlene Lizardo, and Negahr Rastguay. Norman del Rosario coached the winning squad that was undefeated in the 10-team tournament played on

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Sexy Beach pose with their medals and other prizes during the awards ceremony for the Fiesta U18 Co-ed 5 on 5 Beach Soccer Tournament held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court. Also in the photo is Fiesta resident manager Abner Acosta, standing left.